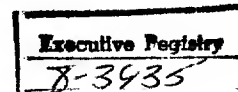


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From: Dr. Martin E. Malia

To: The Librarian of Congress

Subject: Temporary Consultanship on Soviet Book Procurement

The attached report embodies the results of a Temporary Consultanship to the Library of Congress on questions of Soviet book procurement for American research libraries. The general purpose of this consultanship was to investigate methods for improving the flow of Soviet books to American research libraries--in particular the Library of Congress and the universities of California, Columbia, Harvard, Indiana, Yale and Washington, at Seattle--and to prepare a report on this subject. A more specific purpose of the consultanship was to make a four or five months' visit to the Soviet Union to purchase books and to explore at first hand possibilities for expanding exchanges and improving acquisition procedures.

The consultanship began on August 1, 1955. The first week was spent at the Library of Congress receiving final briefing for the trip to Russia. I left Washington by air on August 6 and arrived in Helsinki, Finland, on August 7. I spent two days in Helsinki visiting libraries and bookstores. I left Helsinki on August 10 by air for Moscow, arriving the same day. I spent the period from August 10 to December 28--or roughly five months--in the Soviet Union. I left the Soviet Union on December 28 by air for Helsinki. After waiting a day in Helsinki for appropriate connections I departed on December 30 by air for Amsterdam. From Amsterdam I proceeded by train to Paris, where, due to a strike, planes could not fly. In Paris I spent roughly two weeks, which I took as accumulated annual leave. I used this time to acquaint myself with the new Russian program of the Ecole Pra-

-2-

tique des Hautes Etudes of the Sorbonne, a project in which the Russian Research Center at Harvard is interested, as well as myself. I tried a first time to leave Paris by air on January 16 but was unable to do so because of weather. I finally left Paris on January 17 via Brussels, to which it was necessary to travel by train, since Paris was still closed in by bad weather. I arrived in New York on January 18, and proceeded to Washington the same day.

The attached report gives the results of my stay in the Soviet Union as well as my conclusions regarding methods for improving Soviet book procurement in general.

April 9, 1956

REPORT TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON SLAVIC STUDIES  
AND TO THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS ON METHODS FOR IMPROVING  
SOVIET BOOK ACQUISITIONS BY AMERICAN RESEARCH LIBRARIES

Dr. Martin E. Malia

February-March, 1956

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I	Background and Purpose of Report . . . . .	1
II	Purchase Possibilities in the Soviet Union . . . . .	3
III	Exchange and <u>Mezhkniga</u> . . . . .	14
IV	Acquisition Problems of American Libraries . . . . .	46
V	Recommendations . . . . .	62

I. Background and Purpose of Report.

This report is the result of a temporary consultantship to the Library of Congress from August 1955 to January 1956 for the purpose of investigating methods of improving the acquisition of Soviet books by the Library of Congress and six university libraries--California, Columbia, Harvard, Indiana, Yale and the University of Washington at Seattle. The consultantship was under the combined sponsorship of the Library of Congress and the Joint Committee on Slavic Studies of the American Council of Learned Societies and the Social Science Research Council, and made possible through the support and aid of the Ford Foundation. The object of the investigation was twofold: first, to become acquainted, by visits to the Library of Congress and to as many of the university libraries as possible, with the problems, needs and present level of Soviet acquisitions of American research libraries; and secondly, to make a four- or five-month visit to the Soviet Union to purchase books, to discuss exchanges and in general to survey possibilities for better exploiting Soviet sources of supply.

The first part of this investigation began in the fall of 1954 and continued through the spring of 1955. It involved one temporary consultantship at the Library of Congress in January of 1955, followed by a second visit in May of the same year, to acquaint myself with the general problem of Soviet book acquisitions. In February of 1955 I attended a meeting of representatives of the six university libraries and the Library of Congress at the annual convention of the Association of Research Libraries in Chicago for further briefing. In addition, in the fall of 1954 and the spring of 1955, I visited the Harvard, Yale and Columbia libraries and the New York Public Library to acquaint myself in greater detail with their specific prob-

-2-

lems. Unfortunately, because of the distance, I was unable to visit the libraries at California, Washington and Indiana, although I tried to familiarize myself with their operations by correspondence. Finally, over most of the same period, on behalf of the Joint Committee on Slavic Studies, I assigned to the six universities surplus books received by the Library of Congress from the Publications Procurement Officer at the American Embassy in Moscow. Although this preparation by no means gave me a complete grasp of all the details and technicalities involved in problems of Soviet book acquisitions, it at least gave me a general picture of the situation as it existed as of the summer of 1955.

The second part of the investigation consisted of a five-months' visit to the Soviet Union, from August to December, 1955. I proceeded to Moscow by air via Helsinki. In Helsinki I visited the University Library and the Russian book section of Stockman's Department store. The visit to the University only confirmed what was already known: that it has one of the very best collections of nineteenth century Russian material, particularly periodicals, in the West. The visit to Stockman's revealed that it has a very good selection of recent Soviet materials, although not as good as the Maison du Livre Étranger in Paris, or "Four Continents" in New York, and no better than any number of Russian bookstores in the West. I arrived in Moscow on August 10, and remained in the Soviet Union until December 28.

-3-

In the Soviet Union I spent approximately three months in Moscow and the remaining two months travelling. The most extensive visits made outside of Moscow were to Leningrad, where on three separate occasions I spent a total of about three weeks. The first visit to Leningrad was in the last days of August and the first days of September, the second visit was in the third week of November, and the final visit was just before leaving the Soviet Union. In mid-September I made a trip from Moscow to Gorkii, Kazan and Kuibyshev on the Volga. Following this I made a trip of roughly a week to Central Asia, stopping in Tashkent, Samarkand, Burkara and Alma-Ata. The final trip was in mid-October and lasted roughly ten days, during which I visited Kiev—where I spent three days—Rostov, Tiflis and Baku. The purpose of all these trips outside of Moscow was to purchase locally published material and to contact local universities and academies of sciences regarding book exchanges.

## II. Purchase Possibilities in the Soviet Union.

By way of introduction to my entire stay in Russia I might say that I found a situation completely different from that which had prevailed before July and the Summit Conference at Geneva, and completely different from what I expected. I met with no obstructionism of any sort, either in attempting to buy books or in getting to meet the people I wished to see at the various libraries. The only difficulty I encountered was in persuading Intourist to buy tickets for me to visit certain provincial cities not on the regular tourist circuit. But this was simply an expression of Intourist's general reluctance to do more

-4-

than the necessary minimum for foreign visitors and not part of a concerted attempt to impede my book-purchasing efforts. Both in Moscow and the provinces I was able to buy any book in any bookstore in whatever quantities were available. The only limitation in this respect was a self-imposed one; for reasons of avoiding any possible misunderstanding as to the nature of my activities, I deliberately avoided making purchases in the military bookstores which are located in every sizable city, although I now think that this might have been an unnecessary bit of caution.

In all I encountered only two cases of incipient reluctance to cooperate on the part of bookstores. The first of these was in the Academy of Sciences bookstore in Kiev. I had purchased a large quantity of material in the bookstore. In addition, I had purchased copies of local magazines and publications at a nearby newsstand, one of which was the Agitator's Notebook. Since it would have been troublesome for me to carry the newsstand material with me I asked the bookstore to ship it back to Moscow together with the purchases made in the store. The rank and file help were only too willing to do this although the Director, when he saw the Agitator's Notebook, became alarmed and refused to ship any of the newsstand material. But the combined argument that the incriminating item was on public sale and that in refusing to perform this small service he would inconvenience a heavy-spending customer finally brought him around. The second case of incipient reluctance was at the Academy of Sciences bookstore in Tiflis. The Director was away and the elderly lady left in charge said that she could not send books to the American Embassy without first checking with him. When he returned he evidently gave his approval, since later all the books arrived safely in Moscow. In another bookstore in Tiflis



-5-

I was told that although last year local bookstores did not have the right to mail material to the Embassy in Moscow this year they did. This statement checks with what I was told by a former PPO, Mr. James Leonard, who in travelling through the Soviet Union last year found only one or two bookstores, and those only in the very largest centers, which were willing to ship material back to the Embassy. The bulk of the material he bought in the provinces he was obliged to carry back with him, which greatly limited the purchases he could make outside of Moscow. It is clear from my experiences that whatever restrictions existed in the past on shipping material from the provinces to Moscow now have been removed.

The bookstores everywhere are now not only willing but actually eager to sell books to an American buyer. The reason for this eagerness is that each store, like all Soviet enterprises, has its plan to fulfill--in the case of a bookstore a certain quantity of books to sell. The visit of a buyer such as myself or the regular PPO is, in this respect, a windfall for any store because of the relatively large turnover of stock it produces. Very often a store would set aside books which they knew to be in short supply in order to offer them to us when we came in. In general, both of us were treated as privileged buyers since we were big buyers. I found this particularly true in the second-hand bookstores of Moscow and Leningrad where, by the time I left, I was rather well known. This favored treatment in second-hand bookstores is particularly valuable since the choicer titles almost never appear on the shelves and are usually put aside to be offered only to the most faithful customers.

A final privilege I received as a large scale buyer was permission to go behind the counter and examine the stock on the shelves. Normally, in Soviet

-6-

bookstores, the customer does not have access to the shelves. Instead he examines the books kept under a glass case on top of the counter or he goes through a small and rather unorganized card catalog of titles in stock and then asks for the books he wants. This barrier between the customer and the books slows down operations and restricts purchases only to those titles that the customer thinks to ask for. The right to go behind the counter not only speeds up buying but also permits discovery of titles which otherwise might have been missed. Again, this privilege is especially valuable in second-hand bookstores where titles very often exist only in one copy which the clerk may not have seen fit to put under the glass case on the counter or to record in the summary card catalog.

There is one detail of procedure which should be mentioned in connection with purchasing books in the provinces. Only in the very largest cities, such as Leningrad and Kiev, did I find that the bookstores were willing to accept cash payment for material to be shipped to Moscow. For some bureaucratic reason, the exact logic of which escapes me, most provincial bookstores will agree to send material to Moscow only C.O.D. (nalozhenym platezhom). The procedure in these cases is first to select the books and then to write a letter to the director of the store, stating that "I, so and so, guarantee payment of the literature selected by me on its arrival at the following address in Moscow." In actual fact this procedure is really more convenient than paying cash. First of all it makes it unnecessary to carry large supplies of bills while travelling in the provinces (and Russian notes are very large and cumbersome). Secondly, if for some reason the books do not arrive in Moscow, then the buyer has incurred no loss. I might add here that at no time did I feel it was

-7-

necessary to buy books that I did not want in order to get others that I did want, or expedient to avoid asking for titles in certain fields, such as party or industrial organization. On the contrary, the attitude of the bookstores was to sell all they could and to give the best possible service.

The possibility of obtaining materials, then, was no problem at all. The real problem was one of choice. It is both materially and financially impossible to buy everything that is available in Moscow. For this reason, I developed the following rough rules of thumb to guide me in my purchases. As a general rule those books which are most easy to acquire in Moscow are also those books which are most likely to find their way abroad either on exchange with Soviet libraries or for purchase in one or another western bookstore. The books which most obviously fall in this category are first of all those published by the Academy of Sciences, which there is absolutely no point in buying in Moscow since they can either be purchased more cheaply abroad or obtained more conveniently on exchange. The same is true of books published by the larger branches of the State Publishing House, such as Goslitizdat or of Gospolitizdat, respectively, the literary and political publishing houses. The same is almost as true of the publications of Gosiurizdat for legal literature, Geogizdat for geographical literature, or Gosfinizdat for economic publications, as well as several other of the larger branches of the State Publishing House. All, or almost all of this material, is best avoided in Russia in order to reduce the possibility of duplication.

The only exception I made to this rule was in cases where the book in question was issued in a relatively small number of copies, that is ten thousand or less, as opposed to the fifty to one hundred thousand which is frequent for

-8-

the State Publishing House. In such cases chances are fair that copies will not reach bookstores abroad or that Soviet libraries will find it difficult to obtain them for their exchange funds. In the same category are the smaller branches of the State publishing House (all those not mentioned above), the number of whose titles and the size of whose printings are smaller and not widely distributed, which makes it safer to buy them when you find them in the Soviet Union. In addition there are several publishing houses which specialize in popular or semi-popular literature, such as Moskovskii Rabochii or the Higher Party School, whose editions, even though they appear in large printings, are only infrequently distributed abroad and for this reason should be bought in Moscow. Another category which finds its way abroad less frequently is the books published by the various ministries of the Soviet Government. Although I was unable to make any systematic study of the question I have the feeling that the publications of certain ministries find their way abroad more easily than others, particularly technological material published by such ministries as Heavy Machine Building or Electronics and the like. The publications of other ministries seem to be issued in small quantities and, since they are not of wide general interest, probably would not get abroad. Another category of books published in small editions and distributed so as to reach only a limited public is the editions of the various universities. Such editions are also good candidates for purchase on the spot in the Soviet Union. Finally, since editions of any description which appear in the provinces--either of the local academies of sciences, universities or provincial publishing houses--seem to receive very inefficient distribution within the Soviet

-9-

Union itself, they most likely do not get abroad and hence are good candidates for purchase wherever they are found in Russia.

In general, the two criteria which seem decisive in determining what to buy in Russia and what not to buy are the publishing agency and the size of the edition. In order to avoid duplication and to save money it is best to buy in Russia only titles published either in small editions or by small editing houses or by houses whose distribution system seems to be poorly organized (and this can be determined on the basis of experience). Books published in large editions and by the principal publishing houses are best avoided. These considerations I feel are doubly important in view of the increased possibilities of exchange and the improved attitude of Mezhkniga, discussed later in the report, which should increase the risk of duplication in purchasing in Moscow.

These rough rules were based not only on buying experience in Moscow but also on memories of rather regular reading before going to Russia of Mezhkniga's catalogs as well as of the weekly lists sent out by Maison du Livre Étranger in Paris. That the rules are rough and that memory alone is unreliable was borne out on visiting this store on the way back. I was somewhat appalled by the number of volumes on the shelf which I had rashly bought while in Moscow at double the price. On returning home I discovered that approximately thirty percent of the books purchased in Russia for Widener Library had been duplicated by acquisitions from other sources. Nonetheless, I feel that the general principles outlined here are valid and that they would give better results in practice if they were worked out less empirically and in greater detail than I was able to do. Unfortunately I was unable to do this because the pattern outlined here did not become clear to me until relatively late in my stay in the Soviet Union.

-10-

However, I feel that an analysis of the pattern of books received on exchange or available through Mezhkniga or in Western bookstores--and by this I mean a breakdown by source of publication--would indicate in fairly certain fashion what a buyer should not purchase in Moscow and by subtraction what he should purchase. Since Mezhkniga and Soviet libraries are just as much at the mercy of the vagaries of the Soviet book distribution system as are the Soviet bookstores, what they can supply American libraries should conform to a predictable pattern. On the whole, they should send or sell to us what it is easiest for them to obtain, which should be the same things that are easiest to obtain in the bookstores. In consequence an American buyer in Moscow could avoid these items and concentrate on items which experience indicates do not come on exchange, or are not available through Mezhkniga or cannot be purchased outside the Soviet Union. The pattern, I think, should be roughly the one outlined here; however, more experience will be necessary in order to make buying in the Soviet Union less of a gamble than it is at present. In short, although I am not sure of all the details, I am convinced that the key to rational buying in the Soviet Union is rough knowledge of the distribution pattern of the various publishing houses.

Separate from the problem of acquiring new materials in Moscow is the problem of purchasing out-of-print material. Taken all together, sources for acquiring current items (except provincial material) other than through a buyer in Moscow are good and to all appearances--I hope to indicate this below--are improving. As regards centrally published current material, the role of a buyer in the Soviet Union is an auxiliary one. With respect to out-of-print materials the case is very different. Sources of supply for out-of-print Russian materials in the West are at best limited and Mezhkniga and the Soviet libraries, with a few

exceptions which will be discussed later, are of no help in tapping the sources of supply within the Soviet Union. A buyer working in the second-hand bookstores of Moscow and Leningrad therefore represents a channel of valuable acquisitions unmatched by any other source. Soviet bookstores are simply one of many sources for acquiring current materials; they are far and away the best source for acquiring out-of-print materials. Moreover, if a buyer purchases on the basis of lists furnished by the university libraries the stores are a source that produces no duplication.

To best exploit this source a buyer should get to know well and should become well known in the larger second-hand bookstores of Moscow and Leningrad, some seven or eight in Moscow and some four or five in Leningrad. The most effective procedure is to make an initial call at each store to explain who one is, and to indicate in what quantities one is likely to buy. A single visit usually nets only a relatively small number of titles and for this reason gives a discouraging picture of second-hand book possibilities. What should be done is to leave lists of books at the stores. It is, of course, best to have these lists in the Cyrillic alphabet, although a Roman transliteration can be used. After the clerks become familiar with the material one is trying to acquire, and with the passage of time, they will find ever larger numbers of titles required. As I have already indicated, for big buyers they will put books aside as they are received by the store. Thus, by leaving lists and calling once every two or three weeks, no great expenditure of effort is involved and rather large numbers of books are acquired.

The main thing necessary for such an operation is time, not in the sense of hours spent in any given store or stores, but in the sense of several consecutive months in the Soviet Union during which the stores will have an

-12-

opportunity to become acquainted with the buyer's needs and to accumulate books for him as they come into the store. In the course of six months, and still more of a year, great numbers of very valuable titles pass through Soviet second-hand bookstores, most of which would never appear in the West. This is not apparent on a first or even a second visit to these stores because such titles very often remain in stock only a few days or never get onto the shelves at all. As a result the first visit produces only those few titles which happen to be in the store at the time. But once a store knows what titles the buyer wants, over a period of months almost any title can be turned up. Moreover, large numbers of different titles can be turned up. Unfortunately during my stay in the Soviet Union I was not able to take full advantage of this opportunity. First, I was discouraged by initial visits to the second-hand bookstores and became aware of how to use them most efficiently only towards the end of my stay. Secondly, I was trying to do too many other things at the same time to organize my visits to the second-hand bookstores more efficiently.

Still, those hours I was able to devote to the second-hand bookstores I feel were among the most fruitful I spent in buying. The result was pure gold and no dross. Every title was wanted by someone and each dollar, even each ruble, was placed on a sure winner and not gambled on a hope as in the case of current acquisitions. As an indication of the value of such purchases, out of some 50 titles purchased for Harvard on the basis of want list 35 were found not to be in the collection of the Library of Congress. In other words, if all 50 had been purchased for the Library of Congress blind, without any want list, only 15 would have been duplicates, which is half the percentage of duplication in the purchases of current materials which I made for the universities.



A word of clarification as to what is meant by out-of-print materials is perhaps in order. The term, of course, includes pre-revolutionary material as well as material published before the second world war. However, well over half of the out-of-print material to be found in Soviet second-hand bookstores and of the out-of-print material which I purchased was published during or after the second world war, at a time when our Soviet acquisitions were very low. In other words, the out-of-print material in question is not just of interest to historians, a bias which might reasonably be attributed to me; it is material of all sorts covering the very recent past, and consisting largely of the raw material necessary for studying the Soviet present. Moreover, the availability of Knizhnaia Letopis' since 1947, which the Lenin library has recently sent to the Library of Congress, will reveal numerous titles for these years now lacking in our libraries and for which the only source is Soviet second-hand bookstores, since such material would hardly have found its way into hands capable later of placing it on the Western second-hand book market. And it is precisely books published in this period which are the easiest to come by in the Moscow second-hand stores.

To summarize, in my experience, the most efficient and valuable activity for a buyer in the Soviet Union is, first, systematic exploitation of the second-hand book possibilities, and, secondly, purchase of items published by small printing houses in limited editions, particularly provincial material. This is particularly true for libraries with limited resources, which is the case of almost all, if not all American university libraries at the present time. Where resources are limited they are best spent in Russia for second-hand and provincial materials. This is doubly true if the libraries can be sure of

-14-

obtaining standard current materials from other sources more cheaply and conveniently without use of a buyer in the Soviet Union as added insurance. As will be explained in the next section, I feel that this possibility is about to become a reality.

### III. Exchanges and Mezhhkniga

Originally discussion of exchanges with Soviet libraries was to have been only a secondary part of my mission. This was the case since it was deemed, correctly for the time, that Soviet libraries had no intention of expanding existing exchange relationships. The situation encountered, however, was completely different from what I expected, and indeed from what I was prepared to handle with complete effectiveness. It was my good fortune to arrive at precisely the moment when, for the first time in many years, the Soviets were prepared to revise radically their book exchange policies in the direction of greater liberalization and cooperation with the West. I encountered evidences of this attitude in my visits to all Soviet libraries, both in the center and in the provinces, after as well as before the failure to reach a broad cultural agreement at the October meeting of the foreign ministers in Geneva.

#### Moscow Libraries

I began my visits to Soviet libraries with the largest of them all, the Lenin State Library in Moscow, shortly after my arrival in August. There I talked to the Director, Mr. Bogachev, the Assistant Director, Mr. Klevenskii, and the Director of Exchanges, Mrs. Liubarskaia. The chief matters discussed were, first, the desire of American libraries to expand their existing exchanges with the Lenin State Library, second, their wish to receive currently Knizhnaia Letopis' and other Soviet bibliographical aids, together with back issues of these

-15-

aids either in the original or on microfilm, and third, the desire of American libraries to increase the exchange of microfilms. I also mentioned that American libraries found the exchange rate of four rubles to the dollar expensive.

In the course of my stay in the Soviet Union I made three subsequent visits to the Lenin Library. The purpose of these visits was to follow up on the questions asked the first time and to receive answers to certain questions raised by the Library of Congress in a written proposal for increased exchanges sent to the Lenin Library while I was in Moscow. To summarize the results of these three visits, the Lenin Library confirmed by the following concrete acts the willingness expressed on the first visit to improve exchanges with the West. First of all, little by little, they gave way on the question of the various Soviet bibliographies. Almost immediately they promised to send Knizhnaia Letopis' to the Library of Congress, Harvard, California and other university libraries with which they maintain exchanges. I inquired about the possibility of receiving the Knizhnye Letopisi of the constituent republics, and was told, first, that most of the material included in them appeared in the central Knizhnaia Letopis', and, secondly, that it was difficult for the Lenin Library to acquire the local Letopisi in sufficient quantities for exchange, a statement which is undoubtedly true, as it is for provincially published materials in general. According to the Lenin Library, if we desire the local Letopisi we should get them from the republican academies of sciences. However, not having them would seem to be small loss, in view of the fact that most of their material is listed in the central publication. There was considerably more delay before they consented to release back copies of Knizhnaia Letopis' and other bibliographies. It was only on my last visit, early in December,

-16-

that Bogachev said that the missing back numbers of these bibliographies would be sent to the Library of Congress. Whether or not these bibliographies will be sent to one or more universities has not yet been decided. In addition, the Lenin Library consented to a very large exchange of microfilms with the Library of Congress and in general showed cooperation in supplying microfilms to the universities. In particular, after many years' wait, they at last came through with microfilms of missing back numbers of Pravda and Izvestia for Harvard. Another important innovation was to accept that the Library of Congress and the universities have the right to select what titles they want on exchange on the basis of Knizhnaia Letopis', with the exclusion of titles published in the provinces, in return for selection by the Lenin Library of American titles as listed in Publishers' Weekly. In my opinion the Lenin Library's refusal to supply provincially published titles listed in Knizhnaia Letopis' does not arise from a desire to obstruct, but rather from the difficulties that they themselves experience in obtaining such titles in large quantities. Although this may seem strange to us, in view of the very inefficient organization of book distribution in the Soviet Union, where provincially published titles are almost never found in Moscow or Leningrad bookstores, I feel fairly certain that the Lenin Library itself would encounter significant difficulties in trying to collect such material for their exchange fund.

On the question of prices the Lenin Library refused to make any concessions. Although they know that American libraries can obtain Soviet books in Paris or New York at half the price they cost in Moscow and although they know that Mezhkniga in Moscow itself now will sell to American libraries at the same price,

-17-

they absolutely refuse to apply these prices to their exchange accounts with American libraries. Bogachev's justification for this refusal is that libraries are disinterested scholarly institutions and not commercial enterprises. The most he is prepared to concede is a volume-by-volume or page-by-page exchange. The real motive, of course, for this is that a volume-by-volume exchange is distinctly more profitable to the Soviets than to us. If, after a period of time, the volume-for-volume or page-for-page exchange is found to be too inequitable, the question can be raised again.

It is clear that Bogachev desires far more satisfactory exchange relationships than have existed until the recent past. He has not only stated his adherence to the general principle that exchanges, in order to be satisfactory, must be equal and free; he has demonstrated this by concrete steps to expand the quantity of literature exchanges, by agreeing to an exchange of microfilms, and by making available the Soviet national bibliographies--in short, by acceding to all of the Library of Congress' proposals, excepting reduced prices. His reason for doing this, of course, is not just to be helpful. He is under instructions from his government to expand the Lenin Library's acquisitions of American books. In the past year the Lenin Library has not been doing very well in this area. For instance, in 1954 they received from America, from all sources, 40,199 items of all descriptions from books to newspapers; of these 5,392 were books. For the first six months of 1955 they received only 6,708 items total, of which 1,245 were books. Whatever its causes, the decline is striking and they are very anxious to arrest it, and for this reason are prepared to cooperate in normalizing exchanges. Moreover, American materials are their particular foreign exchange concern. In one conversation I asked

-18-

Bogachev about his exchange relations with Britain and France. He said that they were going well but that no particular effort was being made to expand them. He added that the reason for this was that the really significant book output in the West, particularly in the natural sciences, was not in Europe but in America, and that in the last analysis the only two countries which counted bookwise were America and the Soviet Union. I don't think that this was flattery disburshed because he happened to be talking to an American at the time; superfluous compliments are not in Bogachev's style. Rather his attitude is determined by the fact that the Soviet Government has quite clearly decided that the Soviet Union should learn all it can from the West and in particular from America, that to do this involves book exchanges, and that book exchanges to be profitable to the Soviet Union must also be at least satisfactory for America.

The second library which I visited in Moscow was the Fundamental Library of the Social Sciences, one of the two central libraries of the Academy of Sciences. Here I made two visits, the first towards the beginning of my stay and the second just before leaving. On the first visit the Director of the Library was away and I talked with his Chief Assistant, Mrs. Egert. On the second visit I spoke with Mrs. Egert and with the Director, Mr. Shunkov. Both times I was met most cordially and given every indication of a sincere desire for mutually satisfactory exchanges.

Unlike at the Lenin Library, there were few concrete problems to be discussed since, in general, exchange relations with American libraries have been proceeding smoothly. Only two new questions were raised. The first concerned the exchange of microfilms, and the Fundamental Library indicated a willingness

-19-

to supply American libraries with microfilms and an interest in acquiring American microfilms. Although no specific commitments were made, in view of the general attitude of the Director and his assistants and on the basis of my experience in obtaining microfilms from other Soviet libraries, I see no reason to doubt the sincerity of the Fundamental Library in this matter. The second question concerned the possibility of calculating exchanges at the new reduced Mezhkniga rate. Here the Director indicated that something might be done, but since his remarks really form a footnote to those of the Director of the Central Library of the Academy of Sciences in Leningrad I shall discuss them under that heading later in the report.

The final library I visited in Moscow was that of the University of Moscow. Here I met with the least formal, the most relaxed and the most cooperative reception I encountered in any library in Moscow. After the initial mistake of passing through the External Relations Officer of the University to make my first appointment with the Librarian, which cost me the wait of a week, I found it was possible to see the Director, Miss (or Mrs.) E. V. Spirina, and her assistant in charge of exchanges (whose name I did not catch) at any time simply by walking into their offices. Altogether I made three or four visits to the Library. Mrs. Spirina was extremely eager to enter into exchanges with the Library of Congress and with American university libraries, a fact of particular interest since, of all Soviet universities, Moscow publishes far and away the largest number of items per year. I was told that the entire output of the Moscow University Press was available on exchange to whatever American university library could offer a comparable quantity of material in return. In addition Moscow University is willing to exchange or to supply for cash microfilms on

-20-

request for American libraries. The reality of this offer has already been tested. Moscow University has already delivered to Harvard the microfilm of a manuscript requested late this summer, and two microfilms of theses summaries for the Library of Congress.

Both these offers are only routine in any normal exchange; but Moscow University Library was prepared to go farther, and even to go out of its way, in order to improve relationships. The first instance of this was their willingness to subscribe to Evening Moscow (Vecherniaia Moskva) for Harvard. It was by no means necessary for Moscow to do this in order to get subscriptions to American newspapers since Moscow University, like Leningrad University but unlike all other Soviet universities, has access to foreign currency and can therefore subscribe on its own to foreign newspapers. They did this because they were requested to do so and because it was explained to them that Harvard could not buy a subscription to Evening Moscow. Unfortunately, because of budgetary considerations, Moscow is unwilling to extend this service to more than one or two American institutions.

The second instance of cooperation above and beyond the call of simple self-interest concerns an exchange of out-of-print materials with Harvard and California. The Librarian told me that the University of Moscow possessed a rather large stock of old material going back beyond the Revolution, and that these would be available on exchange. The Lenin Library and the Fundamental Library of the Social Sciences possess no comparable stock of old materials. Since, due to lack of time, I had not been able to purchase in the stores many of the out-of-print items on the want lists furnished me by the universities, I asked the Moscow University if they could help. They agreed to accept two



-21-

want lists, one from Harvard and one from California, and to search their exchange stock of out-of-print material against the lists. The lists were truly enormous, but even after having seen them the university did not back down, and as of the time I had left had already made some progress in searching them. The university will keep the lists to serve as the basis of an exchange of out-of-print material over a considerable length of time. In return, before I had left they prepared the first installment of lists of old material they want from Harvard and California. Both lists were modest in size and contained, moreover, only publications put out by the Harvard and California University presses, whereas the lists I presented contained publications from many sources, not just editions of the University of Moscow. In other words the work involved in this exchange of out-of-print materials should be significantly greater for the University of Moscow than for Harvard or California.

Unfortunately, because of the work and time involved, the University of Moscow is unable to undertake such an exchange on a continuing basis with more than the two American libraries already named. Since a choice had to be made, California and Harvard were selected as the two heaviest participants over the past year in the Library of Congress project for distributing surplus books purchased by the PPO in Moscow. However, the University of Moscow is willing to attempt to answer requests by other libraries for individual titles or short lists of titles (not more than ten or fifteen items). To deluge the University of Moscow with want lists from many American libraries would simply kill the whole exchange. The proper alternative is to find other university libraries, particularly at the older universities such as Leningrad, Kazan, Kharkov or Kiev, able and willing to enter into a similar exchange, a possibility which, unfortunately, I did not have time to explore.

-22-

Of course, it is too early to say how successful the University of Moscow will be in filling the lacunae of Harvard's and California's collections. However, as of the time I left, I was told by the assistant director in charge of exchanges that on the lists of belles-lettres submitted by Harvard some fifteen percent of the items had already been found. As regards a list of reference materials from Harvard he was much less optimistic. It seems that some of the items on the list were not in the collection in the university, let alone in the duplicates fund. Still, this exchange will certainly net some material for filling the lacunae of certain American libraries.

In my estimation there can be no doubt as to the sincerity of the university in agreeing to help us with this matter. If I had to rate the Moscow libraries in terms of their willingness to help in a "disinterested, scholarly fashion" I would put the University first, the Academy of Sciences second, and the Lenin Library last. In this respect the library of the University of Moscow should be useful not only in obtaining out-of-print items but also in obtaining microfilms. To my knowledge the University of Moscow is one of the three or four Soviet universities which possess independent microfilming facilities. Moreover, they give quicker services than the Lenin Library. Not only was the microfilmed manuscript for Harvard delivered in relatively short order, but also I received microfilms of two theses summaries requested by the Library of Congress in a matter of days and without charge. I might add that, with respect to theses, the Lenin Library of the university library where the thesis is deposited can supply microfilms of the published summary. However, if an American reader wishes to see the whole thesis he must write for permission to the library where the thesis is deposited, which alone can authorize

-23-

a microfilm of the complete thesis. Since only the University of Moscow, together with Tashkent and possibly Kiev and Tiflis, have independent microfilming facilities this, in practice, means that it will be possible, at least in the near future, to read only the theses of these universities.

One final item gleaned in my visits to the University of Moscow: they are now prepared to extend to the West facilities for international inter-library loan of books which up until now had applied only to Eastern Europe. The period for which books can be loaned is, I believe, three months (unfortunately I do not remember exactly); in all events it is ample to send, read and return the book. I might add here that the other Soviet universities as well as the academies of sciences are initiating the same international inter-library loan.

#### Mezhkniga

The last institution which I visited in Moscow is not a library, nor does it engage in exchange, but since it parallels and complements exchange facilities it is perhaps most logical to discuss it here. The organization in question is Mezhdunarodnaia Kniga, usually referred to as Mezhkniga, which has an official monopoly of the export of books for sale, both to bookstores in the West and to libraries. Altogether I made some four visits to Mezhkniga. Each time I was received by the directress, Mrs. Ivanova, and her assistant for English-speaking countries, a young man who speaks good English, but whose name, unfortunately, I did not note down. Administratively Mezhkniga would appear to be a part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, or of the Ministry of Foreign Trade. Its offices, in any event, are located in the premises of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs—which may also house the Ministry of Foreign Trade---

-21-

and where they seem to occupy only a suite of rooms on one floor of a many-storied building.

Like the libraries, Mezhkniga seemed very desirous of supplying American libraries with what they wanted and in general of improving service in the measure of the possible. The principal manifestation of this is their new attitude towards prices. Until this year their prices were calculated at the official rate of four rubles to the dollar, and postage was charged at the rate of ninety cents a package, even if the package contained no more than one pamphlet. Already before I arrived Mezhkniga had agreed, in response to a complaint from the universities transmitted by the Embassy, to absorb all postal costs. On my first visit they began by asking me, rather ingenuously, what our grievances (pretenzii) were. I answered that our principal complaints were poor service and high prices. To their question as to what prices the American libraries would consider as fair I answered the wholesale (or "orienting") prices given to the Maison du Livre Étranger in Paris, which, I believe, are the lowest prices paid for Soviet books anywhere in the West. At first they denied that books were sold to Western bookstores at less than the official rate of exchange. When it became clear to them that I knew this was not so, without the slightest show of embarrassment, or without even pretexting a lapse of memory, they admitted the disputed fact and made an offer. They said that, although they could not give us the wholesale prices, they would consider giving us the retail prices of the Maison du Livre Étranger. After checking with superiors, and some further haggling on a second visit, they finally agreed to give us roughly the retail prices of "Four Continents" in New York, or eight rubles to the dollar, which is slightly higher than Paris

-25-

prices. The reason for this retreat from their first proposal was that since American libraries are in America, it is illogical to apply the French "orienting" prices to them. Similarly, since libraries are not bookstores Mezhkniga refused to give them wholesale prices. The real reason for these decisions is most probably a concern not to under-sell "Four Continents." The new prices were to take effect immediately, that is, last October. This has in fact occurred, since the most recent bills received by American libraries are at the new prices.

In addition, Mezhkniga promised to improve service. This improvement, I was told, would take the form of larger and more comprehensive catalogs sent out to the universities. This announced change has, in fact, been reflected in a wider selection in the catalogs recently received. In addition, I asked whether it would be possible to order from Mezhkniga on the basis of Knizhnaia Letopis'. Although Mezhkniga is willing to sell Knizhnaia Letopis' to a limited number of buyers, they claimed that it was impossible for them to supply customers with any and every title listed in Knizhnaia Letopis'. In view of similar difficulties claimed by the Lenin Library and in view of what I myself was able to observe of the inefficiency of the Soviet book distribution system this is almost certainly true. Mezhkniga is able to offer foreign buyers only those items which are easiest to obtain in Moscow, that is the editions of the Academy of Sciences and of the larger branches of the State Publishing House, such as Goslitizdat, Gospolitizdat, etc. In other words, what it is able to offer conveniently will most probably duplicate what the Lenin Library can also acquire for exchange most easily. It is not completely clear to me how Mezhkniga gets its books, but it would seem to have standing orders with the most obvious

-26-

sources of supply in Moscow, Leningrad and a few of the more important provincial cities, particularly the capitals of the various constituent republics. It is on the basis of these standing orders that the Mezhkniga catalogs are prepared. But even these standing orders are not enough to meet all requests made by the foreign buyers. For instance, the PPO in Moscow once ran into a man from Mezhkniga at the Academy of Sciences bookstore buying books over the counter, most probably to fill an order placed by Columbia University. In other words, Mezhkniga itself is not a very well-organized or efficient enterprise.

Still they seem to be making efforts to improve the situation. For instance, Columbia University asked me to acquire a rather large number of titles put out by the Academy of Sciences but which do not appear in the Mezhkniga catalog. Since Columbia wanted these titles only if they could be purchased at the new reduced prices, I asked Mezhkniga to buy them and send them to Columbia. They agreed to do this and reported that they are able to send almost all the titles requested. However, I have the feeling that they agreed to do this only because the Academy of Sciences is a very well-organized editing house and has a special outlet in each city. If I had asked for something that involved visits to numerous bookstores or correspondence with the provinces I rather doubt that we would have met with the same cooperation. In other words, Mezhkniga can be counted on to deliver only what it itself can acquire with the limited means and staff at its disposal. Although they now want to cooperate in serving American libraries there are very real material limits to the extent of this cooperation. Just what these limits are can only be determined in practice over a period of time.

-27-

Still, two things are already clear. First, the present Mezhkniga catalogs indicate a market abroad, principally in Eastern Europe, which is not primarily scholarly. The absence of Academy of Sciences titles is in this respect significant, as is the heavy presence of numerous text books, children's literature and popularizations of one sort or another. It will take Mezhkniga some time to build up a list of offerings of a more scholarly nature capable of interesting American university libraries. Secondly, Mezhkniga is not yet capable of furnishing American libraries with sufficiently dependable service to make it wise to rely on them as our principle source of Soviet books. Although their prices are favorable it remains to be seen what range of material they can supply, what reliability they will show in filling orders, and with what speed they will fill them.

In the interests of improving service and in making it more rapid Mezhkniga made the following recommendation for placing orders. They prefer to receive orders on cards, with one title to a card, rather than in lists. Moreover, the cards should be in the Cyrillic alphabet and in four copies. The best procedure, which is that now followed by the Library of Congress, is to photograph the title in question and to send it along in four copies. If this is troublesome for any university, the next best procedure is to cut out the title in question from the Mezhkniga catalog and send it along in one copy. When Mezhkniga receives lists of titles in the Latin alphabet they are obliged to make out four cards on each title in the Cyrillic alphabet, all of which takes time and consequently slows down deliveries. They will sell us books whether we send cards or lists; but they can deliver them faster if we send cards. Whether their methods are reasonable or efficient

-28-

is another matter, and in effect beside the point since it concerns the inner workings of Mezhkniga and not their policy towards us.

In addition, Mezhkniga complained that American university libraries are somewhat remiss in receipting for books, paying their bills and, in general, keeping their accounts up to date. According to Mezhkniga, this also slows down service since it depletes their working capital and creates time-consuming administrative chores of accounting and letter writing. Again I think that they are telling the truth. This request was motivated not by any inordinate love of the Yankee dollar, but by a desire for greater operating efficiency, from which we benefit as well as they.

One final item on Mezhkniga's list of new services is an offer to sell microfilms on request to any library. The only restriction on this sale of microfilms is that "books in which there are errors or mistakes" cannot be sent since Mezhkniga does not want to aid in the propagation of untruth. Of course, what this means is that Mezhkniga will not honor requests for microfilms of authors such as Trotsky or Beria.

#### Leningrad Libraries

Outside of Moscow the most significant visits made were in Leningrad. This is both because the libraries there are more important and because Leningrad was the only provincial city where I was able to follow up calls as in Moscow. The first library visited in Leningrad was the Central Library of the Academy of Sciences. Here I was received by the Director, Mr. Chebotarev, by the Assistant Director, who on the whole said nothing and whose name I did not catch, and by the Director of Acquisitions, Mr. Chuikov. Altogether, I made four calls at the Library of the Academy of Sciences, one in September, two in



-29-

November and the last in late December, just before leaving the Soviet Union. The atmosphere each time was very cordial. On the first visit I was presented with several editions of historical works published by the Academy of Sciences, and this symbolic gesture set the tone for all subsequent visits.

The Director and his assistants expressed general satisfaction with the state of exchanges with American libraries. The principal improvement they suggested was that exchanges be expanded. In particular, they proposed that Harvard take the entire output of the Academy of Sciences, something which is done at present only by the Library of Congress. If Harvard accepts this offer they will probably make similar offers to other large American universities. In addition, on my final visit they asked whether the Library of Congress would be interested in taking two sets of all Academy of Sciences publications in return for increased deliveries to them, which indicates once again the Soviets' desire to increase their American acquisitions. They also indicated their willingness to exchange microfilms with American libraries, although no specific quantities were discussed. They finally agreed to accept two rather large want lists of out-of-print items, one for Harvard and one for California, a rather high percentage of which were old Academy of Sciences publications. They promised that they would search their reserves for the titles listed, but did not seem overly optimistic about finding very many of them. In return they presented me, for forwarding to the Library of Congress, Harvard, California, and other libraries, their own want lists. Although it is probable that no great quantity of the material requested by us will be turned up by the Academy, there is every reason to believe that they will make a sincere effort to find what they can.

-30-

As regards microfilms, although the Leningrad Academy is quite willing to supply American libraries with microfilms, materially it will be rather difficult for them to do so. The only microfilming equipment in the city of Leningrad is at the Academy. This equipment appears to be in rather poor repair, since I was told that it is repeatedly breaking down, and over-taxed by the demands made on it. There is a two-month waiting list to have items microfilmed. Nonetheless the library is willing to help insofar as is possible. The best indication of this is that I was given, free of charge, microfilms of some unpublished manuscripts in one of the Institutes of the Academy of Sciences in Leningrad, and that these microfilms were ready for me within a week. Obviously, this was privileged treatment because I was there on the spot, and normally American libraries cannot expect such favored service. However, the example at least indicates the desire of the library to cooperate within the limits of its possibilities. In short, I gathered the distinct impression that the Leningrad Academy wished to organize exchanges still better than in the past, primarily by expanding them.

The most significant discussion I had with the Leningrad Academy of Sciences concerned the right of the academies of sciences of the constituent republics to exchange directly with American libraries. On my first visit to the Academy Library I inquired whether the republican academies of sciences would be allowed to exchange directly, instead of passing through Leningrad as in the past. In answer I was told that the local academies were young and still too inexperienced in the ways of international exchange to conduct such operations on their own, and that their needs could most conveniently be met with the help of Leningrad. Between my first and second visits to the Lenin-

grad Academy I visited a number of the local academies, notably Tashkent, Alma-Ata and Tiflis; in each I was told that they had received instructions to develop their acquisitions of foreign books and that they would exchange directly. Since I had been told the contrary in Leningrad I made a special point of trying to clarify this issue, and in each case, I was told categorically that they had permission to exchange directly. The only exception was Kiev. Here I was told with equal unambiguity that the present system of exchanging through Leningrad was perfectly adequate. On my second visit to Leningrad, on pointing out this contradiction, I was told that the Academy was aware of it and intended to make the situation uniform by granting all local academies the right to exchange directly.

What seems to have happened is this: sometime in the course of the late summer or the early fall the smaller local academies, such as Alma-Ata, Tashkent and Tiflis, which until that time had not exchanged with the West, received instructions to develop their acquisitions of foreign materials and construed this as permission to exchange directly. Kiev, as the oldest and most solid of the republican academies of sciences, and practically the only one which already had any significant exchanges with the West through Leningrad, was told nothing. When this contradiction became apparent to the center, the Director of the Leningrad Academy Library decided to take the matter up at a meeting of the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences which was held in Moscow in early December. He informed me of this in November and practically guaranteed that the Presidium would accept his recommendation to let all local academies exchange directly. On my last stop in Leningrad just before leaving the Soviet Union I was told that the Presidium had accepted the recommendation.

-32-

Although the decision is too recent to have borne fruit already in the form of letters from the local academies, I see no reason to doubt Chebotarev's word, who personally is as convinced as are American libraries that direct contact is the only realistic and sensible solution to the problem of exchanges.

The second new item discussed at Leningrad concerned the prices at which exchanges are to be calculated. The matter came up in the following way. On my first visit to the Leningrad Academy the library proposed that Harvard accept on exchange the entire output of the Academy of Sciences and not just a part as at present. I wrote to Harvard asking their reaction to this proposition and received the reply that they were willing if the exchanges could be calculated at the reduced Mezhkniga rates. On my second visit to Leningrad I requested these rates for Harvard, and unlike Bogachev, Chebotarev did not reject the proposition out of hand. He said that, although he understood the request, he could not make a decision himself, and that he would have to take the matter up at the meeting of the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences mentioned above. Shortly after this I paid my second visit to the Academy of Sciences Library in Moscow and discussed the same matter with the Director there. He had already heard about it from Chebotarev and indicated that, although it probably would be impossible to price all exchanges at this rate, certain items could be so priced and the remainder exchanged volume-for-volume, but that the details remained to be worked out. In December in Leningrad I raised this question again and was told that, although no decision had as yet been reached, the matter was still under consideration.

The second library visited in Leningrad was the University library. Here I met with a reception as cordial and as informal as at the University of Mos-

-33-

cow. In all I made three calls, the first in early September and the second two in late November. On the first call, the Directress was away, and I spoke with her principle assistant, Mrs. Romanovskaia. On the second two visits I talked both with the Directress and her assistant, but unfortunately I did not note down the Directress' name. I was told by both that all publications of the University of Leningrad are available on exchange to any American library and that in general the University was desirous of entering into regular exchange relations with American universities. Leningrad University has already delivered a shipment of books to Harvard, simply on the basis of this oral agreement. The same willingness to exchange applies to microfilms, although unfortunately the University has no microfilming facilities of its own, and is obliged to rely on the overtaxed facilities of the Academy of Sciences. On being asked, the University also said that it could supply American libraries with a limited number of subscriptions to non-university periodicals published in Leningrad, such as the literary reviews Neva or Molodoi Leningrad. Like the University of Moscow, and unlike all other Soviet universities, Leningrad has access to foreign currency for books and periodical subscriptions. For this reason there is no necessity for Leningrad to supply American libraries with subscriptions in order to obtain American newspapers or periodicals. Their agreeing to do so is in a sense a service, granted only because it was pointed out that it is often impossible for American libraries to obtain subscriptions to locally-published Soviet periodicals.

The final library visited in Leningrad was the Public Library, the full title of which is "Leningrad Public Library of the Name of Saltykov-Shchedrin". Under the imperial regime the Leningrad Public Library, which is the oldest

-34-

public library in Russia, was what the Lenin Library is today, the national library. It is still the second largest library in the Soviet Union and, so I was told, one of the four or five largest libraries in the world. In spite of this, until this year it had no direct exchanges with the West.

Unfortunately, I did not get to meet the Director, Mr. Barashenkov, since on my two visits, the first in September and the second in November, he was away. However, I talked to his chief assistant, Mrs. Golubova, as well as the man in charge of manuscripts, and, in November, a third official who had recently been appointed to handle foreign exchanges.

As regards exchanges, the Leningrad Public Library indicated a willingness to develop them as far as is possible. But they are not yet ready to begin because they do not know what material they will be able to offer. Since they are a public library with only a few publications of their own, they will be forced to rely entirely on duplicates. They are now preparing a list, both of specific titles and of general types of material, which they can offer on exchange. Since they are in a direct way in competition with the Lenin Library, they are trying to weight the list as heavily as possible in the direction of items published by one or another branch of the State Publishing House located in Leningrad, and more easily available there than in Moscow. When this list is ready, which should be sometime in the course of the winter or early spring, they will be in a position to make and receive concrete offers for exchange.

Between my two visits to the Library they seemed to have made considerable progress in preparing to begin exchanges. The chief indication of this was the fact that on the first visit they were merely thinking about the subject, while on the second they had already appointed a man to deal with this problem,

-35-

and he seemed much better informed than anyone had been the first time. Like the university library, the Public Library indicated a willingness to subscribe to local newspapers and periodicals for American libraries in return for American subscriptions. However, they will not be able to do anything in this direction until March or maybe June of this year. The reason is that Soviet newspapers and magazines take subscriptions only at specified intervals, since they are printed in insufficient numbers to make possible subscription at any time. The Public Library said that it would be willing to take out subscriptions for any interested American libraries as of the summer of this year at the latest. If this promise is kept, and it seems to have been made in all sincerity, it should be of value to American research libraries since such newspapers as Leningradskaia Pravda, Evening Leningrad (Vechernii Leningrad), or the Komsomol paper, Smena, are impossible to acquire in any other way. As regards microfilms, although the Leningrad Public Library is willing to supply them to American libraries, it is at present unable to do so due to lack of independent facilities and to over-crowding at the Academy of Sciences. If all goes well the Public Library should have its own microfilming equipment sometime early this year and, if the demands on it are not too great, it should be able to give reasonable, although by no means perfect, service to American libraries.

As regards microfilms in general, it might be stated here that, to my knowledge, the only libraries in the Soviet Union which have independent facilities are the Lenin Library, the Fundamental Library of the Social Sciences in Moscow, the University of Moscow, the Academy of Sciences Library in Leningrad, the University of Tashkent, and possibly either the universities or the academies of sciences in Kiev and Tiflis. This fact is worth pointing out since it

-36-

means that even with the best will in the world it will be impossible for Soviet libraries for some time to come to give their American counterparts the kind of service to which we are accustomed. Our difficulties in the past were the combined product of obstructionism and inadequate facilities, without, of course, the Soviets ever admitting that their facilities were inadequate; in the future our difficulties---and we are certain to have them---should be the result primarily of inadequate facilities, with only a minimum of obstructionism, and that most likely only in the case of works with "errors or mistakes" in them. It should also be remembered that American libraries are not the only foreign clients for Soviet microfilms. Eastern Europe seems to make very heavy requests for microfilms and, at least until now, has enjoyed a priority. Consequently, when somebody has to wait, or has to be put off, it will most likely be us. It is much quicker to get a microfilm from the University of Moscow, and even the Leningrad Academy of Sciences, than from the Lenin Library. As a final footnote to this problem, no Soviet libraries seem to have facilities for photostating. At least the Lenin Library, on its own admission, does not have them; and the chances are overwhelming that, if they do not exist there, they exist nowhere in the Soviet Union.

#### Other Libraries

Outside of Leningrad and Moscow I visited libraries and academies in Gorkii, Kazan, Tashkent, Samarkand, Alma-Ata, Tiflis and Kiev. I also visited Kuibyshev, Rostov and Baku. In the first of these cities there is no university. In the second two there are universities, and in Baku an academy of sciences, but since I was in both cities on a Sunday, I was unable to visit the institutions there. In each provincial city where this was possible I visited both the university and the academy of sciences. Since one visit resembled another



-37-

very closely, I will not enumerate my calls at each institution, but instead will summarize under two headings: first universities, and secondly, republican academies of sciences.

The universities visited were Kazan, Tashkent, Alma-Ata, Kiev and Tiflis. I also called at the universities of Gorkii and Samarkand, but in each case the responsible officials were absent. In each university I talked with the Rector, the Director of the Library, and in most cases, one or more senior members of the faculty, usually the Dean of the History Faculty (Head of the History Department), since most universities seem to have received advance notice of my arrival from some source other than myself, and knew that I was an historian. In Kiev I was received by several members of the History Faculty in addition to the Rector and the Director of the Library, and in Kazan I was even met at the wharf (I arrived by river boat from Gorkii) by the Rector of the University and the Dean of the History Faculty, who unfortunately made their trip in vain--a distance of several miles--since I got away in a cab before they managed to find me. I include these details only to indicate that in each case the red carpet was out, and that each institution was desirous, even eager, to demonstrate their interest in exchanges. I might add that in each city visited it was only a matter of hours and a telephone call to get to meet the people I wanted to see. Absolutely no effort was made to stall or obstruct.

Each university visited indicated great willingness to exchange, and each asserted quite categorically that it had permission to exchange directly with American libraries. All also indicated that this permission was of very recent date, going back only to the summer of 1955. However, some universities were

more eager than others to make exchanges as wide as possible. The minimum offered for exchange by each university was the totality of its printed output. In the case of most universities this is not very much. The average Soviet university publishes only one periodical, usually called Vestnik or Uchenye Zapiski or Trudy. Only Moscow and Leningrad publish monographs in any considerable quantities. Kiev publishes a few, and Tiflis and Tashkent a very few. The very smallest, such as Samarkand or Gorkii, seem to have trouble even in getting out their lone periodical more than once a year. Most of the scholarly output of the faculty members of provincial universities is published either by the central Academy of Sciences or by one of the branches of the central State Publishing House, and in some cases by the academies of sciences of the constituent republics. But what is published by the universities themselves is available on exchange.

It is what they will expect to get in return that should constitute the principal problem. Soviet libraries are accustomed to exchanging among themselves the totality of the literature put out by the institution which they represent and available to them gratis. For example, the University of Kazan sends to the Academy of Sciences in Leningrad its lone Vestnik in return for the entire output of the Academy of Sciences. With the exception of Moscow, Leningrad and to a lesser degree Kiev, Tiflis and Tashkent, Soviet universities have little or no funds to purchase materials for exchange, and hence are obliged to operate in this unequal way. Unfortunately, this situation has created in the minds of some librarians the prejudice that this is the only honest and fair way to conduct exchanges, even with the outside world. So in approaching Soviet provincial universities care should be taken to make clear

that exchanges will be on something approximating an item-for-item basis, otherwise harmful misunderstandings can result. Since the output of most Soviet universities is so small, it is not worth raising the question of calculating exchanges on a cost basis at the new Mezhkniga prices.

Certain Soviet universities are willing to go beyond the minimum exchange offer of their own output. In this connection the willingness of the universities of Moscow and Leningrad to subscribe to a limited number of local periodicals for certain American universities has already been mentioned. More important is the willingness of such universities as Kiev, Tiflis and Tashkent to do the same. Unlike Moscow and Leningrad they do not have access to foreign currency to subscribe to American periodicals and therefore, if they wish to obtain them, are obliged to exchange. Tashkent offered to subscribe to whatever Central Asian periodicals American universities might desire in return for subscriptions to the New York Times, New York Herald Tribune, the Washington Post, Foreign Affairs, Pacific Affairs, the Moslem World, etc. The University of Kiev offered to do the same for roughly the same list of American publications. The University of Tiflis indicated a general willingness to cooperate in such an exchange, but did not specify which American publications it wished to receive. Kiev and Tashkent, whose appetite for American publications seems to be particularly large, are even willing to go beyond this and supply locally printed books if we can match the offer. The universities of Kazan and Alma-Ata stated that they were not interested in such an exchange, either of periodicals or of books.

This difference in attitude is explained by two factors. First, Kiev, Tiflis and Tashkent are larger and more important than the run of Soviet pro-

-40-

vincial universities, and consequently have greater funds at their disposal to purchase for exchange. The second factor is faculty interest. At Kiev, Tiflis and Tashkent there were professors, particularly on the History Faculty, extremely desirous of obtaining the American publications mentioned above for purposes of their own research. In all three cases the faculty members concerned, together with the Rector, were eager to commit the university to such an operation even though the Director of the library was disturbed, since purchase for exchange is not an accepted part of Soviet library mores. The details of such an exchange, of course, remain to be worked out. Subscriptions to American newspapers and magazines cost more than subscriptions to Soviet periodicals. Nonetheless, this opportunity is an exceptional one.

One final footnote on the exchange possibilities of the universities, the impression which I formed in the provinces--that universities now have permission to exchange directly with the West--was confirmed in Moscow toward the end of my stay by the Ministry of Higher Education, under whose jurisdiction all university libraries come. There I was told quite unequivocally that direct exchange was the policy for all universities. Moreover, each university is now free to determine its own exchange policies, that is, to ask for what it wants, to offer what it is able, and to finance its exchanges whatever way it finds most convenient. Consequently, although each university will be willing to exchange, all universities will not make identical or even similar exchange offers.

-41-

Republican Academies of Sciences

More interesting than the universities were the academies of sciences of the constituent republics. They are more interesting both because they are more important centers of scholarly life and because they publish far more than the universities. The main item of news regarding the provincial academies--permission to exchange directly with the West--has already been discussed. What the academies of sciences have to offer is the totality of their own output, in each case significantly larger than the output of the corresponding local university. None of the provincial academies of sciences took to the idea of offering publications other than their own in exchange.

Among the various provincial academies some are more important than others. Kiev, in particular, is in a class all by itself. As the oldest republican academy, it is far and away the largest and the most solid. Indeed, it is the only one that before the war engaged in large-scale publishing activity, although the ravages of war and the stringencies of the post-war period considerably reduced its output over a number of years. All the other republican academies of sciences are as the Director of the Leningrad Academy Library described them: still very young and just beginning to be able to walk by themselves. Most of them are of very recent foundation. The academy at Alma-Ata was founded only in 1947 and that at Baku roughly at the same time. The academies at Tiflis and Tashkent, even though they had existed before the war as filials of the Union Academy, really started to expand only in the late forties. What the academies of the Moldavian and Karelo-Finnish republics are like I can only imagine, but they are certainly not much. Obviously, the academies of the three Baltic republics, of which Riga seems to be the most

-42-

important, were able to begin serious activities only in the late forties. Consequently, our failure to establish contact with the provincial academies up until now does not represent any serious loss. But, at present, the provincial academies are growing rapidly, and each year their output is increasing correspondingly. Most of this we should be able to get on exchange. And it is not too late to acquire the little we have missed, since each of the academies visited told me that most of their past publications were still available and can be sent on request. Kiev is a partial exception in this respect, since its library was largely destroyed during the war.

Like the universities and the Leningrad Public Library, the provincial academies are green and inexperienced in exchanging with the West. Therefore, although they are willing to begin immediately, it should take some time before they get their bearings and before regular exchange relationships can be worked out. The librarians of the various local academies are almost totally ignorant of the organization of American libraries and of the American publishing industry. Many of them share the naive opinion of some of the smaller universities that exchanges have nothing to do with accounting. Moreover, all the academies are primarily interested in the natural sciences, and publish primarily in this area, which will make it difficult for them to get together with American universities, who on the whole desire to collect Soviet material only in the social sciences and the humanities. For all these reasons misunderstandings and delays are bound to occur, but these should not be construed as a lack of real willingness to exchange where mutual interests can be found. The best way to abridge, or even avoid completely, these misunderstandings is to take the initiative and indicate clearly what we want and what we are

-43-

prepared to offer in return. Otherwise we will receive proposals which bear no relation to our interests or our means, and which we will have to counter with proposals which might look to the smaller Soviet libraries as a restriction of exchanges since they would de-emphasize the natural sciences. Indeed, the Soviet libraries would be quite happy to see us take the initiative since those outside the larger centers hardly know what or where our libraries are. As a small example, time and again in the provinces when I said I was from Harvard University, librarians understood Hamburg University.

To summarize the situation with respect to exchanges, I would like to reiterate that all Soviet research libraries now have permission to exchange directly with the West, and that I was given assurances of this both by the individual libraries and by the responsible ministries at the center. These assurances are, of course, "words" and not "deeds", and it will be objected that few of the promises made to me have as yet borne fruit in concrete exchange offers, or still less in deliveries of books. But some of these promises already have been made good. Mezhkniga has reduced its prices; Knizhnaia Letopis' has at least been made available; the Lenin Library has negotiated with the Library of Congress a five-fold increase in exchanges on more nearly equal terms than were ever obtained before; the universities of Moscow, Leningrad, Lvov and Kazan have already delivered actual books to Harvard. Moreover, it is hard to believe that the unanimity of willingness to exchange which I encountered was simply a gigantic plot to take American libraries in; the American library public is simply not a propaganda target worthy of such exertions. But the most compelling reason for believing that Soviet libraries mean what they say is that from all the evidence of the last eight months if

-44-

is clear that the Soviet Government has decided that cultural isolation is harmful and that such exchanges are in its own best interests. We should not allow the bitter experience of the past to obscure this fact. Nor should we follow the cautious instincts developed by this experience and sit back waiting to be wooed, thus leaving the initial definition of new exchange relationships to the Soviets. Our own interests are best served if we take the initiative, on the highly reasonable assumption that the desire to cooperate now expressed by Soviet libraries is the result of a new government policy towards book exchanges.

Reinforcing this general policy is a desire on the part of individual libraries and librarians to be more or less disinterestedly helpful because, by the nature of their profession, they feel this is the civilized and truly "scholarly" thing to do. This attitude may not have been a part of the Government's intent, but it exists and as long as the present policy continues it should have some effect on the establishment of satisfactory exchanges. In this connection it is perhaps worth pointing out that the Soviet scholarly world has welcomed the slight raising of the Iron Curtain of the past months with an immense sense of relief, and that the possibility of expanded book exchanges is glad tidings to all the individuals that this affects in one way or another. This is particularly true of libraries other than the Lenin Library. We should also remember that the librarians and scholars in charge of executing the government's new policy are not necessarily as hard-headed in their motives as is the government itself. I have given certain examples of this willingness to help on the lower levels, particularly as concerns the University of Moscow. I could give others, such as the gift of certain vol-



umes from the shelves of the Library of Leningrad University to Harvard, the gift of valuable microfilms to me by the Director of the Institute of Russian Literature of the Academy of Sciences in Leningrad, etc.

I realize that I am perhaps overemphasizing this point; if so, the over-emphasis is deliberate. If my experience in visiting Soviet libraries is worth anything at all, then it indicates that the situation which exists now is radically different from the situation which existed only six months ago, and that the worst mistake we could make now would be to reason by past precedent, and fail to recognize the fact that new and very large exchange possibilities exist at present in the Soviet Union.

In practice these exchange possibilities will undoubtedly prove to be somewhat more advantageous to the Soviets than to us, but this is a situation inherent in the nature of the Soviet system itself and about which American libraries and universities can do nothing. If all goes well, it should now be possible for American libraries to acquire on exchange all, or almost all, the output of the Soviet academies and of the Soviet universities together with a large segment of the output of the various branches of the State Publishing House. The only significant exceptions to this are items which by government decision are not generally available to the public--which we cannot get anyway--and items published by the provincial branches of the State Publishing House, which would appear to be of only minor value. Of course, it will require time, perhaps a year or so, to get such exchanges operating on a regular basis, but at the end of this period exchanges should be able to supply a very large percentage of American libraries' wants. Although such exchanges will most probably be more expensive than buying

through Mezhkniga, they should also be more reliable. Finally, although exchanges would probably not be cheaper than purchase by a buyer in Moscow, again they should be more reliable, since Soviet libraries have a better knowledge of what is being produced, and more ready access to the sources of supply than would a buyer going from bookstore to bookstore. In short, if exchanges develop the way it now looks they will, they should prove the most convenient and certain source of supply for those categories of Soviet publications which they are able to tap.

#### IV. Acquisition Problems of American Libraries.

For the <sup>US</sup> libraries covered in this report the following sources of supply have been used since the end of World War II: purchase from Mezhkniga, either on a blanket order for all material in certain specified fields, or individual order on the basis of catalogs distributed by Mezhkniga; exchange with the three central Soviet libraries, the Lenin State Library, the Library of the Academy of Sciences in Leningrad and the Fundamental Library of the Social Sciences in Moscow; purchase of surplus books acquired by the U.S. government Publications Procurement Officer in Moscow, books which are received through the Library of Congress and assigned by a member of the Joint Committee on Slavic Studies; purchase from one or another bookstore in the West, such as "Four Continents" in New York or Maison du Livre Étranger in Paris; and an arrangement under which university libraries receive Russian duplicates from the Library of Congress in exchange for microfilm.

The relative importance of these sources varies considerably from one library to another and depends on the size of any given library's budget and the range of its needs. As a general rule the larger a library's budget and

-47-

the greater the range of its needs, the greater is the role played by exchange, by purchase from Mezhkniga and, in the last eighteen months, by surplus from the PPO. The smaller a library's budget and the narrower its needs the more reliance is placed on purchase in the West and on the Library of Congress' duplicates exchange, usually to the total exclusion of foreign exchange and with a greatly reduced use of Mezhkniga and the PPO. The reason for this pattern is that exchange, Mezhkniga--at least until last fall--and the PPO are all relatively expensive because operations are conducted at the official ruble rate. In addition, all three, and especially the PPO, until now have been productive of duplicates, since--except for individual orders from Mezhkniga--the recipient library takes what it is sent and has little opportunity for choice. Purchase in the West or exchange with the Library of Congress removes both of these difficulties; the cost is reasonable and each university receives only what it requests. In other words, extensive use of the first three sources is possible only for a library that can afford a policy of covering all possible fronts in the hope of broadening the range of material acquired--but at the risk of duplication, or of receiving material it does not want, and of the cost that these entail. Reliance on the latter two sources is necessary for libraries that must spend each dollar on something they are sure they want.

Among American research libraries only Harvard and California, and of course the Library of Congress, have chosen the former policy. Although a large consumer of Soviet books, Columbia has accented purchase in the West, excluded exchange and deemphasized Mezhkniga and the PPO, in part because of a favorable location near an important source of supply at "Four Continents,"

-48-

and in part out of general cost considerations. Buying on a somewhat smaller scale, the New York Public Library and Yale have adopted variations of the same policy for similar reasons, the principal differences being that Yale uses exchange and the PPO to a small extent while the New York Public Library has dispensed with both. Indiana, Washington and the Hoover Library at Stanford have felt it necessary in different degrees to pursue a conservative acquisitions policy, with little or no exchange, heavy reliance on purchase in the West and with reduced or no use of Mezhkniga and the PPO.

The total acquisitions of each library are a reflection of the policy adopted. Leaving aside the Library of Congress (whose total acquisitions are roughly indicated by the Monthly List of Russian Accessions), the three largest consumers of Russian material are California, Columbia and Harvard. Although it is impossible to be completely precise because the libraries do not necessarily keep statistics of the sort needed to make the comparison desired here, nor do all libraries keep their statistics in the same way, the breakdown is roughly as follows for average annual acquisitions over the past five years: California, monographs (including first issues of new serials), 1200; serials, 600 (741 in 1954-55); Columbia, monographs, 1750; serials, 150 (probably a low estimate); Harvard, monographs, 1690; serials, 390 (555 in 1953-54). For each university there has been almost no increase over the last five years in the number of monographs acquired, although there has been a rather significant increase in the number of serials. It should also be pointed out that, with a more conservative policy, Columbia's total acquisitions have not been significantly less than those of California and Harvard.

-49-

That this is not true of serials is a reflection of the fact that Columbia maintains few exchanges, and exchanges are in effect a necessity for any library that desires to collect periodicals on a large scale.

For the other libraries a conservative policy is reflected in a significantly smaller volume of acquisitions. For example Yale averages 400 monographs annually and 75 serials; the University of Washington 500 monographs and 75 serials; the New York Public Library roughly 900 titles total, including both monographs and serials. The figures for the other libraries are of the same rough order of magnitude.

How these results compare with the national maximum is indicated by checking them against the total number of titles appearing in the Monthly List of Russian Accessions. In theory this listing includes all post-1945 material received by American research libraries, and in practice probably comes very near to meeting its goal. Most of the titles listed are represented in the collections of the Library of Congress but that Library does not collect in such fields as technical agriculture and medicine. [The following table, added by the Library of Congress since the body of this report was written, gives the number of monographs listed in the Monthly List since it began publication in 1948.

<u>1948-49</u>	<u>1949-50</u>	<u>1950-51</u>	<u>1951-52</u>	<u>1952-53</u>	<u>1953-54</u>	<u>1954-55</u>	<u>1955-56</u>
3999	5456	6971	5611	4710	4879	7276	9368 ]

In what follows I have used the figure for 1953-54, the latest in my possession when the report was written. If we compare this figure with the rough total acquisitions of California (1941 titles), Columbia (1900 titles), and Harvard (2245 titles) in the most recent year for which we have figures from these

libraries, it becomes apparent that the largest university libraries are receiving as low as 30% and as high as 60% of the national maximum for current materials, depending on the year and the institution, but with the over-all average nearer the former than the latter percentage. For example, California gives the figure of 27% for the year 1953-54, and California's acquisitions are on the whole high. However, in this connection it should be pointed out that the universities are not primarily interested in collecting materials in certain fields in which the Library of Congress collects, such as the natural sciences, technology or music. In those fields of humanities and social sciences in which the universities are most interested the percentage of titles in the Monthly List acquired by the universities is considerably higher. For example, Harvard estimates roughly 80% of receipts in these areas. It is evident that corresponding percentages for the other universities would be lower in proportion to their total receipts.

More significant than a comparison of university receipts with the American maximum is a comparison with Soviet book production. Our information on Soviet publication before last year is scanty, but what information we do possess indicates a slowly expanding production. In 1947, the last year before 1955 for which Knizhnaia Letopis' was available, the Soviets published approximately 28,000 book titles and an estimated 42,000 titles of all sorts, which are roughly the figures for the years just prior to the war.<sup>1</sup> A catalog card of the All-Union Book Chamber accidentally received

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<sup>1</sup> These figures are taken from A Survey of Russian Accessions to American Libraries made in 1948 by Charles B. McLane for the American Council of Learned Societies.

-51-

by the Library of Congress indicates a total of 23,392 "books of general interest" published in 1952. Presumably this figure includes only books published for sale and omits titles for free distribution, the addition of which would almost double the total. But it is a copy of Pechat' SSSR (Press of the USSR) for 1954 recently received by the Library of Congress which gives the most complete information now available on Soviet publication over the past years. The production of "books of general interest," that is, books published for sale as opposed to material distributed free of charge within government agencies and enterprises, rose from 25,000 in 1953 to 29,200 in 1954. Before 1953 production seems to have been relatively stable around 25,000 or lower. Production of material for free distribution has increased more notably, rising from 16,000 in 1953 to 20,900 in 1954, with a period of stagnation and even slight decline before 1953, as in the case of titles printed for sale. These two categories taken together give a total production of 50,100 for 1954, and smaller totals ranging from 41,000 to 45,800 for the earlier years.<sup>2</sup>

But the grand total of 50,100 is not of primary concern to American libraries since it includes the 20,900 titles for free distribution which we cannot get except in isolated and exceptional cases, however much our researchers would find it useful to have them. The significant figure is the 29,200 "books of general interest". But even here a further limitation must be made, since only a part of this production is of direct concern to American

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<sup>2</sup> All the data given here from Pechat' SSSR are set forth at greater length in Appendix to the Library of Congress Information Bulletin for October 31, 1955.

-52-

libraries. Some universities would not be interested in acquiring the 7,002 titles published in technology, or, in most cases, the 2,119 published in the pure sciences. The same applies to the 963 titles published in public health and medicine and to the 364 titles in physical culture and sport. The universities would be interested in acquiring only a part, and that a small one, of the 3,746 titles listed in agriculture, or only those works which contain information of an economic as well as a technical nature. A similar selectiveness would apply to the 647 titles listed for transportation and the 104 for communications. Out of the 14,945 titles listed in all these categories only a handful, some 100 or 200, would be of interest to the universities, and these only to universities maintaining large research programs in the social sciences.

In this connection it should be pointed out that a very high proportion of the literature in these categories is manual or pamphlet literature of low quality designed for the self-improvement of workers in one or another field. In general Soviet publishing is much more practical and educational in purpose than is Western publishing. With large, although in the last analysis limited publishing facilities at its disposal, the Soviet government has decided to use them primarily to raise the "technical and political level of the masses," with an emphasis on the technical, in the broadest sense. As a result, little of the enormous quantities of material being produced is of scholarly or scientific significance. Its value to American researchers is at best marginal, and that only to the very small degree where it is possible to extract information about Soviet society, educational level, etc., incidentally contained in such literature. But for American libraries to collect it even for



-53-

this purpose would be neither convenient nor feasible. As a concrete indication of the way Soviet publishing is weighted, for the 7,000 titles published for sale in technology in 1954 or the 3,746 in agriculture, only 567 were published in history, and textbooks are included in the latter figure. Needless to say, the material for free distribution is even more heavily weighted in the direction of popular educational literature of a technical sort.

This is not only clear from the statistics; it is apparent from a visit to any Soviet bookstore, where the technical department is always much bigger than the belles-lettres or the "political" (social sciences) department. Moreover, this distribution corresponds to the reading habits of the Soviet public. For reasons which may not reflect taste but which are nonetheless compelling--namely, desire for self-improvement and economic advancement--the crowd is always thicker and trade livelier at the technical counter. Next in popularity is the belles-lettres counter, where the public seems to seek in fiction a release from the drabness of Soviet life and a substitute for the lack of other recreational facilities. In last place comes the "political" counter, where the fare is both less exciting than at the second, and not quite as necessary for advancement as at the first of the rival counters. These details are included only to indicate that the pattern of Soviet publishing, given its purpose and its public, is not to be understood in terms of the Western pattern, and that we should not expect the same ratio of non-scientific to scientific publications we find in the West.

This pattern is borne out by the statistics, where production in the humanities or belles-lettres is greater than for "political" literature, although both are far short of technology and science. Altogether some 9,496

-54-

titles are published in what we would call the humanities, of which the majority, 4,940, are belles-lettres. It is difficult to say precisely what percentage of this production would be of interest to American libraries. The figure for belles-lettres includes children's books, which are published in great quantities in the Soviet Union and which American libraries do not want. The figures for languages (1,298) and literature (637) include textbooks, which, except in rare cases, are not of interest to American libraries. The figure for "culture and education" (1,552) includes large numbers of pamphlets and manuals designed for professional use by teachers and cultural workers, which again would not be of general interest to American libraries. It must also be taken into account that a certain percentage of the titles listed under these categories, particularly in belles-lettres, represents re-editions of works already in American libraries, translations from Western languages or translations into the minority languages of the Soviet Union of works previously issued in Russian. Finally, much of the Soviet literary output is of such low quality as to deprive it even of historical or documentary interest, particularly material published in the minority languages or in the Russian provinces, and hence would not be collected by American libraries. When all these factors have been taken into account, only some 3,000 or less of the titles published in the humanities would be likely candidates for collection by American libraries.

Altogether some 4,080 titles are published in fields we would group in the social sciences. Here, too, deductions should be made for translations from Western languages, translations from Russian into the minority languages, low-grade text-books, reprintings, etc. However, these deduc-

-55-

tions would be much less sizeable than for the humanities. Translations and reprints (except for the "classics of Marxism-Leninism") are much less numerous than in belles-lettres; textbooks have a value in history or economics that they do not have for Russian literature or foreign languages; low-grade production in the social sciences has an interest for American researchers which low-grade literature lacks. Altogether 2500 to 3000 would be a fair estimate of the quantity of material in this category which Americans would wish to acquire.

In practice, however, it will be almost impossible to acquire all the titles we desire in the humanities and the social sciences. This arises from the fact that provincially published titles as well as titles printed in small editions--and these two categories tend to overlap--are difficult to obtain either on exchange or by purchase. How large a percentage of Soviet book production these two categories represent can be inferred from information supplied in Knizhnaia Letopis'. The following figures represent a sample count of titles in numbers 41 to 46, inclusive, of Knizhnaia Letopis' for 1955 and cover the categories 4 to 13, inclusive, used by that publication, categories which correspond roughly to what we would call the humanities and the social sciences. In these six numbers and in these categories 218 titles were listed as published in the provinces as opposed to 219 published in Moscow and Leningrad. In other words, roughly half of the book output of interest to us appears in the provinces where it is hard to get. In addition, 123 of the provincial titles were printed in small editions, that is 3000 or less, as opposed to only 60 such titles published in Moscow and Leningrad, and this further increases the difficulty of acquiring them. But the situation is not quite as bad as these figures would suggest. First of all, a

-56-

large part of the provincial output referred to here is published by the local academies of sciences and universities, and hence can be obtained on exchange. Secondly, much, but by no means all, of the output of the provincial branches of the State Publishing House, whose publications we cannot get on exchange, is intrinsically less valuable than material published at the center. This is particularly true of belles-lettres and of the popular educational literature published in sizeable quantities at the local level. I say this on the basis of my experience in visiting provincial bookstores and of a certain number of unwise purchases there. In addition, it should be borne in mind that a part of provincial publication represents translations from Russian into the minority languages. When all these factors are taken into consideration our difficulties in acquiring provincial material are much less serious in their consequences than absolute figures would make it appear. Nonetheless a number of significant items, particularly in the social sciences, are published by the provincial branches of the State Publishing House, especially those of the constituent republics. Most probably the majority of these could only be acquired by a buyer on the spot, or in certain cases through exchange with local universities willing to supply us with non-university publications. Just how many titles would fall in this category, or what percentage of the optimum figures given above they would represent, it is impossible to say. This could undoubtedly be done if we had the Knizhnye Letopisi of the various republics, which unfortunately is not now the case. In any event provincial titles which we cannot get, or which we can acquire only exceptionally, would reduce somewhat the optimum totals for the humanities and social sciences given above. Since it

-57-

is impossible to arrive at even an approximate figure, no correction will be introduced here in suggesting desirable acquisition goals. Nonetheless this factor should be borne in mind.

A total of 1,718 serials was published in the Soviet Union in 1954, and this figure compared to figures for previous years represents a steadily rising production. However, certain of these periodicals are either impossible to acquire or can only be acquired occasionally by a buyer on the spot. These periodicals are grouped by Pechat' SSSR under the headings "propaganda serials" (the Bloknoty agitatora) and "bulletins" (i.e., of an official sort), and together they account for 443 titles. The important figures for American libraries are the 489 "periodicals" and the 789 "series". If the natural sciences, technology, agriculture, sports, etc., are excluded, as in the case of books, there remain some 535 serial titles of interest to American universities. If the pure sciences as opposed to engineering and technology are included--and libraries that may not collect monographs in this area might well wish to collect periodicals--then 240 more items should be added. Finally, 7,108 newspapers were published in the Soviet Union in 1954. Of these, 4,758 were in Russian and 2,350 in other languages. Only 20 were of a central nature for the whole Soviet Union, while the remainder were of a local nature--republic, province or city. Obviously American libraries would be interested in only a very small part of this production, at the most the twenty central papers, the republic papers, some fifteen in number, and the papers of the principal provincial cities, a total of 100 at the outside. If this is added to the total for serial titles, a grand total of 635 for all periodical literature results, or 875 if the pure sciences are included.

-58-

Of the total Soviet production of 58,926 items--books, periodicals and newspapers--for 1954, many American university libraries would be interested in acquiring, or would be able to acquire, only the following portion. First of all somewhat less than 3,000 monograph titles in the humanities and a roughly equal number in the social sciences, for an approximate total of 5,500 are relevant to our needs. The few titles in technology, agriculture, etc., of interest for their non-technical aspects would not change this figure materially. In addition libraries such as Harvard, California and to a lesser degree Washington ideally would be interested in acquiring what is of value in the 2,119 titles published in the pure sciences, but are unable to aim at this at present because of financial limitations. Since this figure includes textbooks it should be reduced to around 1,000 to get the core of material of value to research libraries. Therefore the following rough maximum goals can be set for American libraries: 5,500 monographs and 635 periodicals if the pure sciences are excluded; 6,500 monographs and 875 periodicals if the pure sciences are included. These figures, of course, are for acquisitions of current materials alone, and it must be remembered that all American libraries have serious lacunae of out-of-print material in their Russian collections which, desirably, should receive more attention than has been possible until now. If this is taken into account the figures just given must be revised upwards. In addition, it should be remembered that these figures can by no means be construed as indicating a permanent maximum goal. Soviet book and periodical production is steadily growing, and our permanent goal should be to keep up with those portions of this expanding production which are of interest to us.

-59-

These rough maximum goals compare both favorably and unfavorably with present acquisitions. In periodical literature we are now very near the figures given here. California's 741 serials for last year and Harvard's 555 for the previous year indicate excellent coverage of our principal areas of interest. Smaller figures for other institutions do not indicate an inability to get material but choice of a policy short of the maximum. As regards monographs we are doing less well. Columbia's total of 1750 and Harvard's of 1690 are far short of the 5,000 to 5,500 optimum. The acquisitions of libraries with more conservative acquisitions policies are still shorter of this goal. This is all the more true in that the acquisition figures for all libraries include out-of-print material, which means we are further from the optimum for current material than it has been possible to indicate here.

This relatively less satisfactory performance with respect to monographs is of course to be explained in large part by the difficulty of obtaining Russian books until very recently. But it is also to be explained by limited funds, especially in the case of libraries with more cautious acquisitions policies. Policies were cautious because funds were limited, and each dollar had to be made to count. If limited means were a brake on acquisitions in the past, this will be doubly true of the future, and not just for some university libraries, but for all. Actual receipts have been growing rapidly in the last half year, and this has already produced a severe strain on the financial resources of even the largest libraries. Moreover, as I hope was indicated in the previous section, acquisition possibilities should expand in the near future to where realization of the maximum goals set forth here will

-60-

soon become a practical possibility. In this event present means will be totally inadequate to needs and possibilities.

At present university budgets for Slavic materials in general range from \$15,000 to \$2,000. It is difficult to give precise figures by institution and by year because university library budgets are usually not broken down by languages but by subject fields or in terms of special grants. It is also difficult to separate Russian expenditures from general Slavic or Cyrillic expenditures. However, the following rough pattern is easily discernible. The largest budgets range between \$10,000 and \$15,000. For 1953-54 Harvard spent roughly \$11,100 on Slavic materials. For 1954-55 the sum spent was nearer \$15,000, and for the current year expenditures will go significantly above that amount. As an indication of the increase in expenditures for Russian material, somewhat less than \$3,000 was spent by Harvard in 1947-48. It also should be pointed out that expenditures have been growing faster than new acquisitions, a reflection of the relatively high percentage of duplication involved up until now in a policy of exploiting all possible sources in order to secure maximum acquisitions. Columbia reports average annual expenditures of between \$12,000 and \$14,000 since 1947, with variations primarily explained by changing market possibilities, especially for out-of-print and antiquarian material. California was able to give what it admitted were only partial figures. These indicated fluctuations over the past five years between \$5,832 and \$2,888, with the mean near \$4,000 plus. In view of the quantities of material California is receiving these figures seem to me far too low. This is probably a reflection of the fact that California breaks down its budget by subject rather than language and that the figures given here show



only expenditures for Slavic language and literature. Both Yale and the New York Public Library report annual average expenditures of approximately \$4,000, which is in line with their acquisitions. Washington averages around \$2,000, which is the rough figure for other libraries with the same general level of acquisitions. (Although Washington acquires roughly the same quantity of material as Yale for less money, this is explained by the fact that Yale invests more heavily in out-of-print and antiquarian material, which is expensive per unit.) In addition it should be borne in mind that almost no university library pays for its Russian acquisitions entirely out of its regular budget. All are in some degree dependent on special funds, either grants of one sort or another or contributions by research institutes attached to the university. Such grants and special contributions are usually only temporary, with the result that any given library's Russian resources can fluctuate greatly from year to year and often in an unpredictable fashion.

Thus, financial resources of most universities are inadequate to exploit to the full present sources of Russian acquisitions; even those libraries whose resources are adequate for present possibilities now lack the means necessary for any significant expansion or for proper exploitation of new possibilities; finally, the resources of all libraries are unstable. American libraries simply cannot meet the growing needs of Russian studies with traditional revenues designed primarily to cover the classical disciplines in the Western languages. It is this situation which will constitute the chief limiting factor on expansion and improvement of Russian acquisitions in the future--indeed, this is already the case--rather than difficulty in obtaining Soviet books or systematic obstructionism on the part of the Soviets as in the past.

V. Recommendations.

In view of the foregoing it is evident that making recommendations for the improvement of Russian accessions to American university libraries is not a simple matter. Any recommendations made must depend on the goals chosen by the various libraries and on the means at their disposal, and goals and means will differ. Therefore, what can be said here must to some extent be hypothetical and addressed to an ideal situation. The use any given library can make of it will depend on differing particular situations.

First of all everything depends on the goals chosen. Probably only the Library of Congress can aim for what have been outlined here as maximum desirable goals. Although it can be argued that one copy of all useful items is in the last analysis adequate, this situation is, I think, regrettable. This argument cannot be generalized too far without falling into absurdity, and inter-library loan and even microfilming should be a supplement to, and not a substitute for, adequate university collections of printed volumes. It is particularly regrettable that the universities feel obliged to abandon all effort to keep up their Russian collections in the pure sciences, an area in which, perhaps above all others, it is vital to know what the Soviets are doing. Ideally, in addition to the Library of Congress, it would be desirable for at least one other library on the East coast and one on the West coast to aim for maximum useful coverage.

It is difficult to state precisely what the maximum program would cost. The best index would be the cost of this program to the Library of Congress, but this is not yet known, since the Library of Congress has not attained the optimum of accessions given here. However, a rough estimate can be made

-63-

on the basis of present operations. Present maximum budgets, excluding that of the Library of Congress, run to about \$15,000 for some 1700 monographs and 550 serials, or approximately one-third of the optimum figure for acquisitions given above. But this sum includes expenses for out-of-print materials, which are relatively costly, and duplication arising from our past inability to order only what we want. Therefore to obtain the optimum of current material it would not be necessary to triple the present sum spent. Roughly twice the present sum, or \$30,000 annually, would be sufficient. This figure, of course, is only for current material. Any effort to fill lacunae would increase it proportionately to the extent of the effort, but probably no more than \$2,000 or \$3,000 a year.

It is clear that any expansion or improvement of Russian acquisitions is contingent on finding these sums or as large a part of them as possible. Therefore, in discussing ways to improve acquisitions here it will be assumed that something can be done about the problem of means. Otherwise the whole discussion will be in vain. In other words, the recommendations which follow will be based on the assumption that maximum goals are pursued, and all ways for meeting these goals in the most economical manner will be considered. What does not apply to the needs of any institution can be discarded.

In general terms the central problem is the relation of coverage to cost. Each library should strive to fill the largest possible portion of its needs from the cheapest sources and resort to more expensive sources only when there is a clear advantage in terms of coverage. Unfortunately the cheapest sources are not always the most reliable, nor is it always a simple matter to recon-

cile these two considerations or to determine where one outweighs the other. These remarks are undoubtedly self-evident, but it is perhaps useful to state here that they constitute the general principles which inspire the specific recommendations which follow.

There are certain types of materials which, if we wish to acquire them all, offer no choice as to means. This category includes the near totality of what is produced in the provinces, either by the local academies of sciences, the universities or the local branches of the State Publishing House. A very small portion of this production--a few newspapers and periodicals and a few academy publications--is offered by Mezhkniga at reasonable rates, but only a small part. Some can be picked up by a buyer in Russia, but only sporadically, and at higher cost than on exchange. The only way to acquire the bulk of this material is through exchange. Such an exchange would be on a unit for unit basis, since the outputs of the institutions involved are relatively small, and for this reason it would not be worth raising the vexed question of costs. Still this would be less expensive than exchange with the central Soviet libraries, since American libraries could easily cover their receipts by material from their respective university presses. It would not be necessary to offer outside publications as is often done for the central libraries. Only if use is made of the willingness of some of the provincial universities to send outside material available to them, would we have to reciprocate, and the cost would be correspondingly greater. But again there is no other way to get this material.

-65-

In this same category comes the output of the two central universities, Moscow and Leningrad. Although some of this material gets abroad and some of it can be picked up in Moscow, it is unwise to rely on these sources, since university printings are small and quickly exhausted. The only sure way to acquire this production regularly is through exchange, but again exchange of the less expensive variety since it could be covered with American university press productions. In addition, it is valuable to maintain good relations with these two universities through exchanges because of other services they can offer in the way of microfilming and of searching for old or difficult-to-acquire items.

The production of the central Academy of Sciences, of the central branches of the State Publishing House and of the ministries--that is the bulk of the significant Soviet output--presents a rather more complicated problem. Almost all of it is available from several sources--exchange with the central libraries, Mezhkniga, purchase abroad or purchase in Moscow by the PPO--each of which has its advantages and its disadvantages. Leaving aside for the moment the PPO, the principal alternative is exchange or purchase through Mezhkniga, plus Western outlets of Mezhkniga. Exchange on a unit for unit basis or on a cost basis at the official rate--and one or the other of these rates is used at present in all exchanges--is about twice as expensive as Mezhkniga and its Western outlets. The problem would be very simple if Mezhkniga plus outlets afforded the same coverage as exchanges, but they do not at present, nor is it possible to say with any certainty that they soon will, or even might. The situation is even more confused by the fact that it is also too early to say how much better coverage the central libraries can give, and there is a big difference between only somewhat better and very much better.

A few things, however, are already clear. Although the majority of the publications of the Academy of Sciences can be obtained through Mezhkniga plus Western outlets, the only way to be certain of receiving all of them, especially periodicals, is to take them on exchange with the Academy library. In its present mood the Academy would also most probably make good on promises to furnish all items in specified categories if an American library were not interested in getting absolutely everything. The same reliability characterizes the Fundamental Library of the Social Sciences in Moscow.

The Lenin Library is more of an unknown quantity. It has undertaken to furnish the Library of Congress and Harvard with all centrally published titles listed in Knizhnaia Letopis' chosen by the Library of Congress and Harvard, if orders are received soon enough. In return the Lenin Library would order on the same basis from Publisher's Weekly. To expedite the process of ordering the Lenin Library has agreed to send Knizhnaia Letopis' airmail, which can only be construed as a real intention to cooperate. Mezhkniga has explicitly refused to make any such sweeping commitment, on the grounds that there was no point in promising what it could not hope to deliver. In other words, the Lenin Library seems much more convinced of its ability to provide coverage than is Mezhkniga, and this would also apply to Mezhkniga's Western outlets. This expressed conviction would seem to me to be supported by other considerations. The Lenin Library undoubtedly has influence and connections in the Soviet book world which Mezhkniga does not, and hence would find it easier to obtain books. In addition, the Lenin Library possesses an organization and an operating efficiency which Mezhkniga lacks. Finally, the Lenin Library is under strong governmental pressure to increase

-67-

American acquisitions, which means cooperation in meeting American needs, whereas Mezhkniga is simply trying to make money and create good will. For these reasons it seems to me clear that the probabilities for maximum coverage of centrally published materials are all on the Lenin Library's side.

But probabilities are only that, and it remains to be seen just how well the Lenin Library will do in practice. I recommend that the universities enter into exchange relations with the Lenin Library for a trial period of a year or so. I recommend this despite the fact that the Library of Congress has already entered into such a relationship, because the circumstances differ. The Lenin Library may not be able to offer a wide coverage of materials to many American libraries and there is, therefore, an advantage in staking out one's claims early.

But assuming the Lenin Library exchange proves satisfactory, there still remains the problem of costs. For this reason Mezhkniga should be tried out at the same time. In the first year this will inevitably lead to some duplication but it should be possible to keep this to a minimum. In general it would be best to ask the Lenin Library for books printed in small editions and books which are otherwise difficult to obtain. Materials published in large quantities should be purchased from Mezhkniga or its outlets in the West. What is difficult to obtain and what is not can, on the whole, be determined before ordering on the basis of the information given in Knizhnaia Letopis', where the publishing house, the number of copies, and the price are listed for all titles.

-68-

The exact proportions as between purchase and exchange can only be determined in practice, which is another reason for experimenting with both for a trial period. Our ultimate goal should be to make the portion of Mezhkniga as large as possible and to rely on exchange only for what we cannot get otherwise. This does not mean that exchange could ever be eliminated as one of our chief sources of supply, regardless of its higher cost. Nor would this be desirable even if it could be achieved; good exchange relations are important not only for the books they bring in, but also for the auxiliary services they make possible, such as micro-films, bibliographic help, and aid in gaining access to rare or valuable items.

[Since the above was written, Harvard and the Library of Congress have received notification from the Academy of Sciences that henceforth all exchanges will be calculated at the new Mezhkniga rate of eight rubles to the dollar instead of the official rate of four to the dollar. This change will most probably apply to the Fundamental Library of the Social Sciences in Moscow as well, since it is also an Academy library and and policy is set for both by the central Praesidium of the Academy of Sciences. This means that only the Lenin Library has not yet accepted the new rate. The Academy's decision does not directly affect the Lenin Library, since the latter comes under the authority of the Ministry of Culture, which is completely distinct from the Academy - the Academy in effect constitutes a ministry in itself, although it does not have the name, and is responsible directly to the Council of Ministers, like the various ministries. Nonetheless the moment seems propitious to raise the subject again with the Lenin Library.



I might add that a decision of this sort would not directly affect the universities, since they come under a third Ministry - that of Higher Education. But, as has been indicated elsewhere in this report, it would perhaps be better not to raise the question of costs with the universities, since none of them publish in sufficient quantities to make a volume-by-volume rate burdensome to American universities which can offer their own press publications, obtained at a reduced rate, in exchange<sup>7</sup>.

It should take about a year for the dust to settle in respect to the uses to be made of Mezhkniga and exchange with the Lenin Library; in the meantime the universities should continue with the PPO as a source of supply, in the way of added insurance. However, this use should be selective and decreasing. It is already clear that certain types of material, such as publications of the Academy of Sciences and the larger branches of the State Publishing House, can be obtained easily either on exchange or by purchase at lower rates elsewhere than in the Moscow bookstores. In buying for the universities, the PPO should avoid such material and concentrate on less easily accessible items of the sort mentioned in Part II above. In addition, the universities would not be interested in receiving material in the natural sciences and technology. The PPO is now thoroughly familiar with the needs of the universities, and his buying for the universities should conform to the pattern given here. But once the situation has become clear with respect to the new possibilities of ordering on exchange and through Mezhkniga, the PPO should no longer be necessary for current materials, even as added insurance.

-70-

The cost of purchase in Moscow is too high and the risk of duplication too great to warrant continued use of this source when adequate coverage can be assured in other ways. At the end of 1956, therefore, purchase of surplus from the PPO by the universities should be discontinued.

Instead the universities should send a representative of their own to Moscow for a limited period and for specific tasks which the PPO cannot undertake because of other demands on his energies. Such a representative should not purchase standard current items. Instead, he should concentrate exclusively on two types of material. First, he should acquire those limited categories which experience reveals do not come on exchange or cannot be purchased through Mezhkniga, that is, primarily provincial materials. This means that he should travel to the actual sources of supply in the provinces, primarily to the main centers, such as Minsk, Kiev, Odessa, Kharkov, Tiflis, Erivan, Baku, Tashkent, and if possible such cities as Riga. It would not be necessary to go to second-rank cities such as Gorkii, Kazan, Rostov, Alma-Ata, etc., which experience indicated to me were of minor value for items of interest to the universities. Secondly, and more important still, the buyer should direct his energies toward the acquisition of out-of-print materials in Moscow and Leningrad. As I tried to point out in Part II, purchase on the spot is absolutely unique and irreplaceable as a source for such items. Indeed, this material is of sufficient value and importance to justify sending a buyer to acquire it alone.

-71-

The second principal task of a university representative should be to follow up on exchange discussions. I was able only to initiate them, and correspondence over the next year cannot clear up all problems or answer all questions. For this purpose it is desirable that any university representative be as familiar as possible with exchange problems, in all their specific technicalities and details, and more familiar than I was. Moreover, face to face contact is very valuable for getting to the heart of matters in a hurry as well as for sizing up Soviet libraries and their exchange capabilities. The more we know about them and the more they have seen of us the easier it should be to plan our dealings with them. In addition, since Soviet libraries (and the Soviet book situation in general) are not static affairs it would be valuable to know from time to time how they are changing.

The best time to send such a representative would be at the earliest possible date in 1957. By then the new exchange situation and the problems it will inevitably create should be clear and ready for discussion. Also, although it is never too soon to start large-scale purchase of out-of-print material in Moscow, for this too a wait of a year might be advisable in order to permit greater clarification of the financial situation of the universities and of the sums they would be able to devote to such an operation. Since both of these tasks require time, the representative should go for at least four months and preferably six, depending on Soviet visa policy at the time and on whether or not Embassy facilities will be required.

-72-

In this connection every effort should be made to use Embassy facilities as little as possible, not because the Embassy is in any way reluctant to cooperate, but in order to make the timing and length of stay of a university representative as independent as possible of contingencies of crowding, space storage, etc., at the Embassy. In particular it would be desirable if purchases by a university representative could be sent back via the Soviet postal services rather than through Embassy facilities. This would at the same time relieve strain on those facilities and give a less governmental character to the activities of the university representative, both of which are desirable. From my experience of the Soviet postal services this should be entirely feasible. A university representative, of course, would not be able to acquire office space or hire help to wrap and send packages. Therefore he should ask the stores to wrap the books carefully in small packages for shipment (and this they will willingly do) and then mail the packages himself at the Post Office, since the stores are technically not allowed to ship for export. Although this may sound time consuming, in fact it would be more expeditious than use of Embassy facilities, where the buyer is required to sort and partially wrap the books himself, moreover, wedging his activity in between the operations of the PPO and others using the same office. The books thus sent could either be addressed to one central distributing point, such as the Library of Congress, or, preferably, to the individual university libraries. Again, if the latter procedure were employed, time, effort and expense would be saved. As regards records of shipments and accounting, the buyer could simply send a letter for each shipment, either to the Library of Congress or to the appropriate university library, depending on the alternative chosen,

-73-

stating that so many packages worth so many rubles were dispatched on such and such a date. For my shipments through the Embassy I forwarded no more detailed accounts than this. If desired, itemized receipts, listing each title and its cost, can be easily obtained from the stores and these could be forwarded as well.

Another variant to this approach would be to try to persuade Mezhkniga to ship back material for a university buyer. This way we would be certain we had official Soviet approval and cooperation. However, I rather doubt that Mezhkniga would do this since such services are not a part of their mandate. Moreover, they explicitly told me this was impossible for books not sold by them. They also said it was impossible for them to buy from the stores items selected by an American representative for resale at reduced prices to the universities represented by the buyer. And, in effect, such an operation, aside from the fact that it violates Mezhkniga's legal monopoly of book export, would entail complicated extra work of accounting for them.

The cost of maintaining a university representative in Moscow would be as follows. Room with bath ranges from 30 rubles a day to 55, with the average price around 40, or \$10. Meals would cost another 50 or 60 rubles a day, or \$12.50 to \$15. Taxi fares would not average more than 20 rubles a day, or \$5, and it is possible, and often more convenient, to use buses or the subway. The minimum total would then be \$30; to this should be added another \$5 if, as suggested, packages of books are taken to the Soviet Post Office for direct mailing. It was my experience that another \$10 should be added for unforeseen contingencies--the purchase of a fur hat for cold weather, replacing articles of necessity which have been lost, purchase of perishable necessities

-74-

of one sort or another, etc., for a total of \$45. Because of the unstable conditions in the USSR it would be wise to round this out to a grand total of \$50 per day. This would provide a cushion against changes likely to occur in the course of a prolonged stay in the Soviet Union. Fifty/a day makes \$1,500 a month; for four months this would total \$6,000, for six months it would total \$9,000. For travel within the Soviet Union \$2,000 is more than adequate, since long distance travel is one of the few things that are cheap in Russia, even at the official rate of exchange. To this must be added some \$1,000 to \$1,500 for secretarial expenses and the shipping of books from the provinces to Moscow (this is relatively expensive). The total, therefore, for four months would be \$9,500 and for six months \$12,500. To this, of course, an appropriate sum must be added for salary and for transportation from the USA to Moscow and return, as well as for travel of the representative from his residence to the Library of Congress for briefing and for his expenses in Washington. Leaving aside the question of salary, travel to and from the USSR is approximately \$1,000 and expenses within this country prior to departure would be around \$500. The grand total then, exclusive of salary, would be a minimum of \$11,000 and a maximum of \$14,000, depending on the length of time spent in the Soviet Union. Needless to say, such an enterprise could not be financed by the universities, but would require foundation help.

In addition to these measures the duplicates exchange program of the Library of Congress, as one of the most valuable and economical sources of supply for the universities, should be continued and placed on a permanent,

-75-

self-financing basis. Almost all the Russian duplicates of the Library of Congress are of value to one university or another and a large part of those processed thus far--approximately 60%--have in fact been purchased by some university. Moreover, this project serves far more institutions than the six primarily concerned in this report. Until now the cost of listing and distributing the Library of Congress' duplicates has been borne by the foundations; the universities have only paid for the cost of the books themselves at the nominal rate of \$1 per volume.

For this project to continue on a permanent basis I recommend that it become self-financing. The Library of Congress estimates tentatively that this can be done if the universities in the future pay from \$1.75 to \$2.00 a volume. This rate should take effect as of June 30, 1957, when present foundation funds run out. The Library of Congress would prefer that the Joint Committee on Slavic Studies handle the details of collecting funds from the participating libraries. In practice this would mean close cooperation between the Joint Committee and the Library of Congress in setting up accounting procedures and establishing precise rates. The Joint Committee would have primary responsibility for organizing the program, for informing the universities of the details of its operation and for obtaining their consent; once the program had been established the universities could make payments directly to the Library of Congress, since the Joint Committee lacks facilities and personnel for periodic accounting and collection of funds. As at present, \$1 will go for the book, and the remainder, \$0.75 to \$1, for an assistant at the Library of Congress to list and distribute the books. For one assistant at the GS-5 level, the Library of Congress will need between \$3670 and

-76-

\$3910 per annum, depending on whether or not they retain the present incumbent in the position or employ another person at the beginning salary (this accounts for \$0.75 to \$1 range in estimating processing costs). In order to supply the Library of Congress with working capital, it would be necessary to have each participating library contribute initially \$150 and then to make adjustments, either up or down, at the end of the year proportionate to the quantity of material each library receives. In this way the cost per book to the universities will remain small and at the same time the program will become self-supporting on a permanent basis.

In addition to these measures there is a whole category of projects--many of them already underway--for improving the Russian resources of our libraries which should not be neglected because the situation with respect to the procurement of current material is now becoming more normal. These projects concern in one way or another the surveying or the microfilming of Russian materials outside the Soviet Union, primarily in Western Europe; or they concern making more usable existing collections in this country.

A microfilm has been made, with foundation help, of the catalog of the Russian holdings of the Helsinki University Library. The portion of this catalog which covers periodicals has already been checked against the collections of the Library of Congress and of Harvard and is now being checked by the New York Public Library. An estimate will be made of the cost of microfilming those periodical titles not in the Library of Congress, Harvard, or New York Public. When this has been done, funds should be secured for microfilming the periodical titles themselves. One master



-77-

negative, to be kept in the Library of Congress, would be sufficient, and the universities could order positives of materials they desired on the basis of lists. Along the lines of this project, we should consider the possibility of screening the collections of other European libraries against the Cyrillic Union Catalog of the Library of Congress and of obtaining funds for micro-filming the titles we lack.

Both of these projects, given their relatively high cost, should be closely considered against the alternatives either of obtaining microfilms from the Soviet Union itself or of large-scale purchases of out-of-print material in the Soviet Union. Unfortunately, since the latter two possibilities as yet are somewhat unknown quantities, it is difficult to say how much we should rely on them and how much we should rely on the better known facilities of Western European libraries. What will probably result is a division of labor. Literature of any type that we need and that is available somewhere in the West will best be microfilmed there both since this involves fewer unknowns and since the availability of the necessary microfilming equipment is not a problem; we should ask the Soviets only for what we cannot get elsewhere, for inverse reasons. Purchase of out-of-print material in the Soviet Union is, of course, preferable to micro-filming in the West, but not all types of this material can be purchased. In particular, very old items and periodical literature of all sorts are hard to come by in the second-hand stores of Moscow and Leningrad. There is in Moscow a store where back numbers of periodicals of the Soviet period are available, but it is neither very well organized and in consequence slow to work over, nor is it very completely stocked. Yet within these limits we

-78-

should attempt to purchase as much as we can. But for many pre-revolutionary materials, particularly periodicals, microfilms from Helsinki and other Western libraries will remain an indispensable source of supply both until Soviet microfilming facilities become more adequate and until we are more certain of their policy towards us. Still we should think now of how to combine these resources most effectively with opening Soviet resources, as well as of the cost involved in the varying combinations. For the moment we should proceed on a conservative estimate of the situation; we should follow the proposed microfilming of the Helsinki periodicals at least by a survey of Western European capabilities with a view to subsequent microfilming, using purchase in the Soviet Union and Soviet microfilms as a supplement to these sources.

At the same time resources already in our libraries should be made more readily available to researchers. This can best be achieved by making a microprint of the Cyrillic Union Catalog of the Library of Congress, which lists all, or nearly all, Cyrillic holdings in America. The microprint could then be purchased by all interested university libraries, or even by individual scholars. This would supplement the already published lists of Russian newspapers (1917-53) and of Russian periodicals (1939-51).

Needless to say, all such projects for extensive microfilming or for surveys of material in view of eventual microfilming could not be financed by the universities or the Library of Congress. Like sending a university representative to Moscow, they could only be undertaken with foundation aid.

-79-

One final recommendation is that all interested parties--the six university libraries most directly concerned, the Library of Congress, the Chairman of the Joint Committee on Slavic Studies and myself as a "specialist" on Russian acquisitions--meet together in approximately a year's time to review the situation and to chart a course for future action. The most convenient time and place for such an encounter would be the annual convention of the Association of Research Libraries in January or February of 1957. By that time the new situation now just coming into being should be sufficiently clear to assess results, to make recommendations and to devise means for improving Russian acquisitions more adequately than has been possible in the present report.